



BLUE BEETLE

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AUGUST

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BLUE BEETLE

I HAVE THE SOURCE
OF YOUR POWER...
NOW THE WORLD
WILL FEEL MY
WRATH!

INTRODUCING...
MENTOR
The
MAGNIFICENT

I...I'M WEAK...
SICK... **HE'S**
BEATEN ME!

WITNESS THE TRANSFORMATION OF A TIMID
WEAKLING... AN OBJECT OF RIDICULE!
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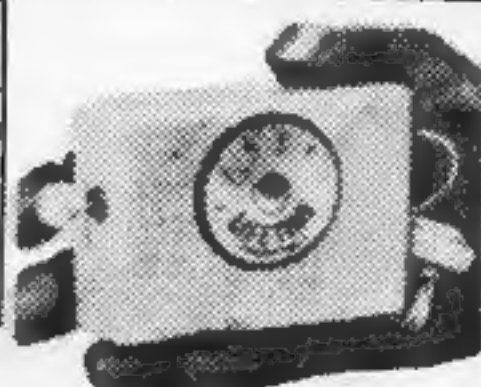
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MENTOR^{the} MAGNIFICENT

THIS ROBOT, THE CREATION WHICH JEREMIAH CLUGG CALLED MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT WAS DESTROYING BLUE BEETLE...JUST AS THE UGLY, CLUMSY LITTLE PHYSICS PROFESSOR HAD PREDICTED ON THE CAMPUS WHERE CLUGG TAUGHT PHYSICS AND ALLIED SCIENCES WHILE DR. DAN GARRETT LECTURED ON ARCHEOLOGY! AS THE MAD PROFESSOR'S METALLIC MAN HURTTLED TOWARD HIM, THE TERRIBLE HEAT-RAY THREATENED TO INCINERATE BLUE BEETLE, AND EVEN THE MIGHTY POWERS BESTOWED BY THE ANCIENT PHARAONS COULD NOT PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING!



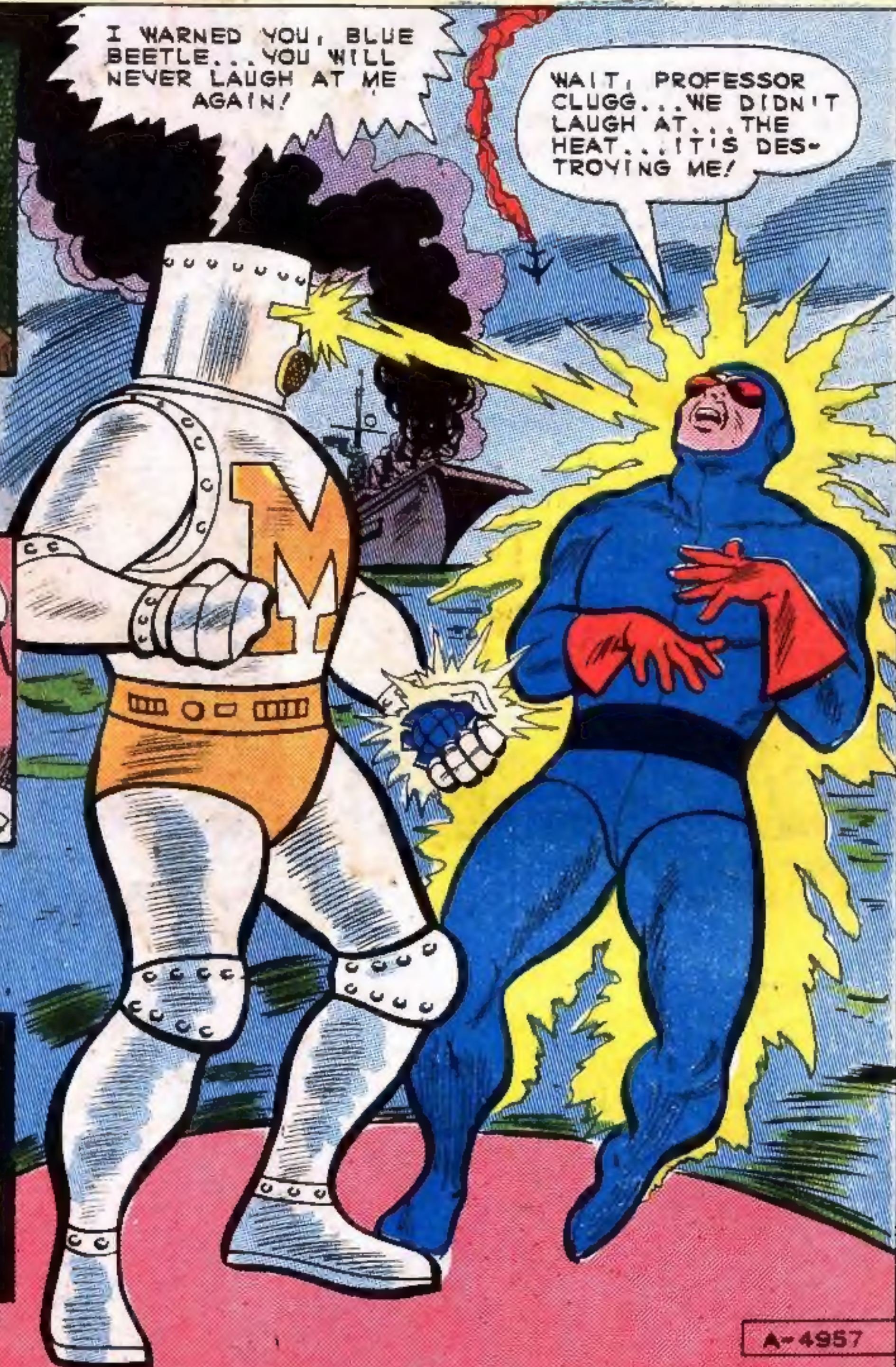
BLUE BEETLE'S REAL IDENTITY, DR. GARRETT, TEACHES ARCHEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY!



DR. JEREMIAH CLUGG, THE PHYSICS AND SCIENCE GENIUS WHO BUILT THE ROBOT HE CALLED 'MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT'!



MISS APPLETON IS THE BLONDE WHO DR. CLUGG THINKS DESPISES HIM BECAUSE OF HIS APPEARANCE!



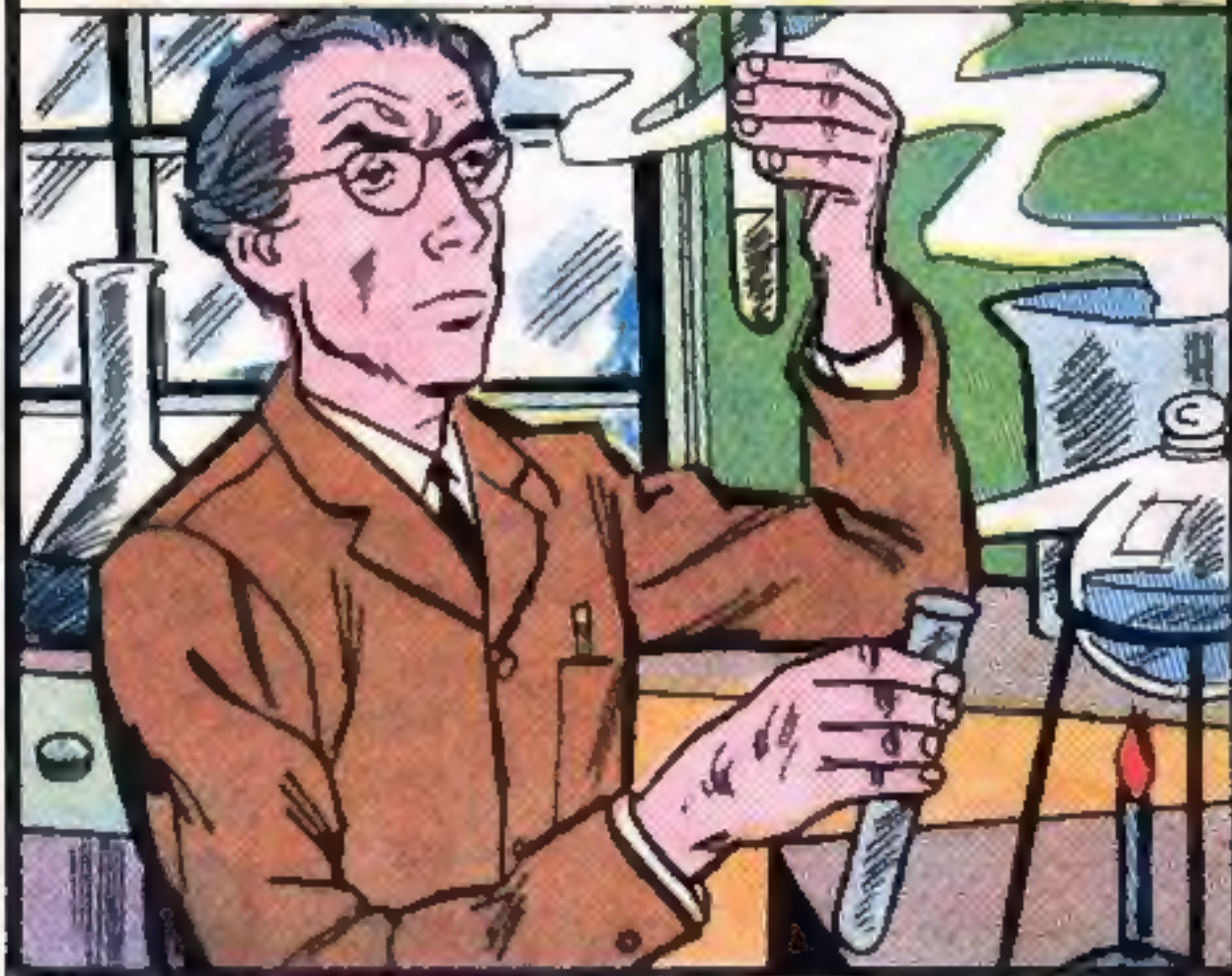
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WRITTEN BY
JOE GILL

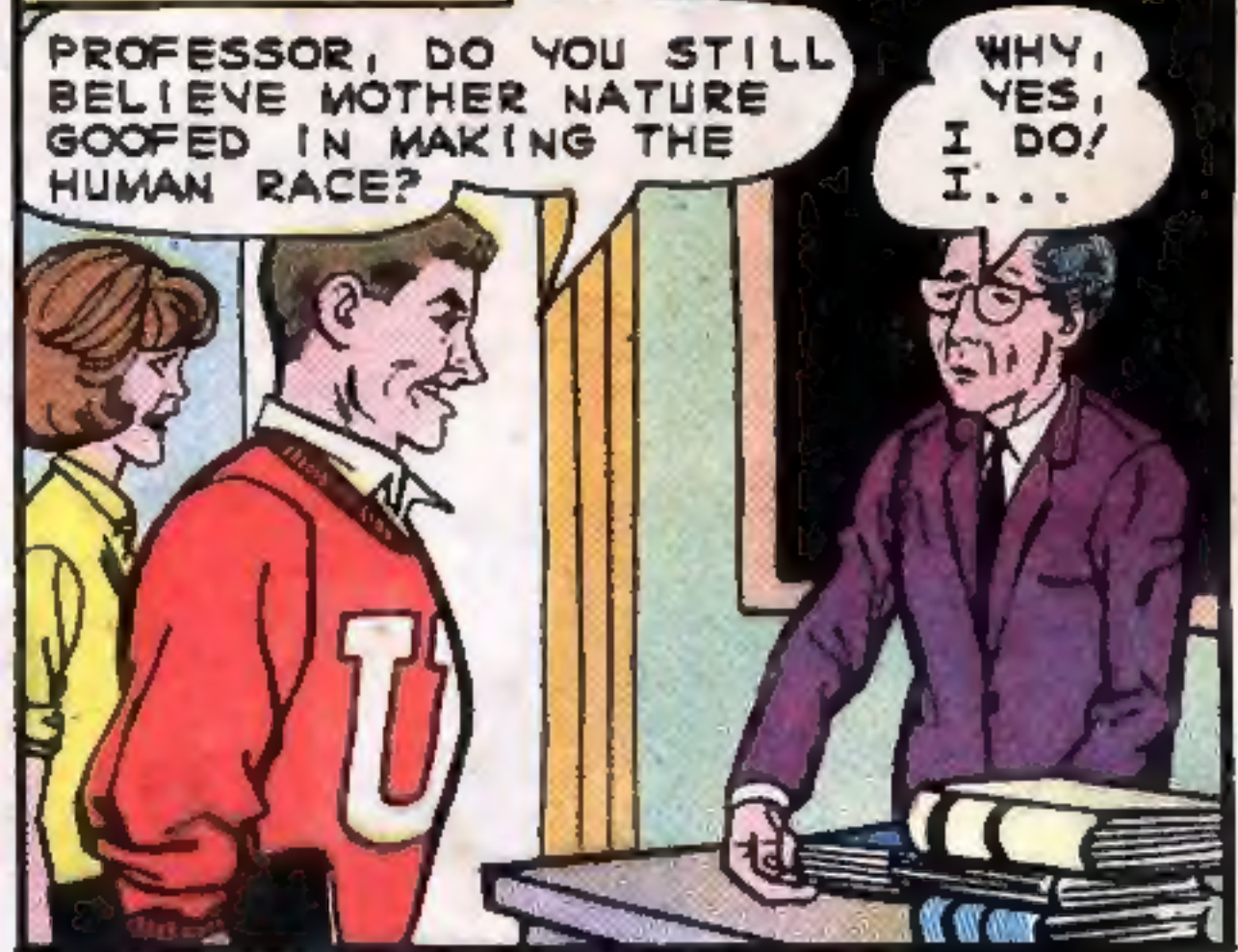
PENCILLED BY
BILL FRACCIO

INKED BY
TONY TALLARICO
nomscans

IN HIS LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR CLUGG LIKED WORKING ON HIS EXPERIMENTS WHICH FEW MEN COULD UNDERSTAND! AN ACKNOWLEDGED GENIUS IN HIS FIELD...

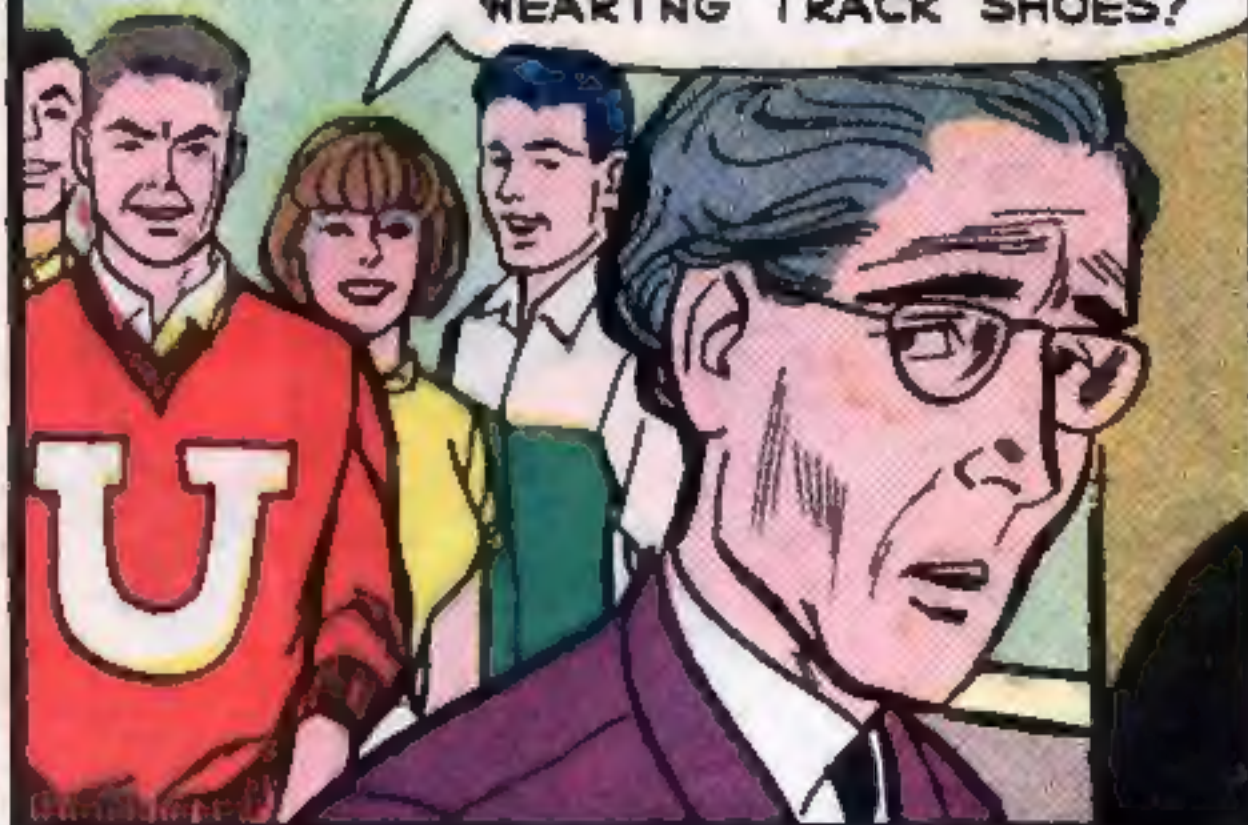


BUT HE HATED TEACHING IN CLASS! HE COULDN'T CONTROL HIS STUDENTS ...AND HE INVITED RIDICULE FROM THOSE WHO WERE TOO STUPID TO PASS HIS EXAMS...



I DON'T BLAME YOU, PROFESSOR CLUGG! IN YOUR CASE, I THINK MOTHER NATURE MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!

LOOK AT HIM RUN! THIS IS THE SECOND DAY THIS WEEK HE TOOK OFF LIKE A JACKRABBIT WEARING TRACK SHOES!



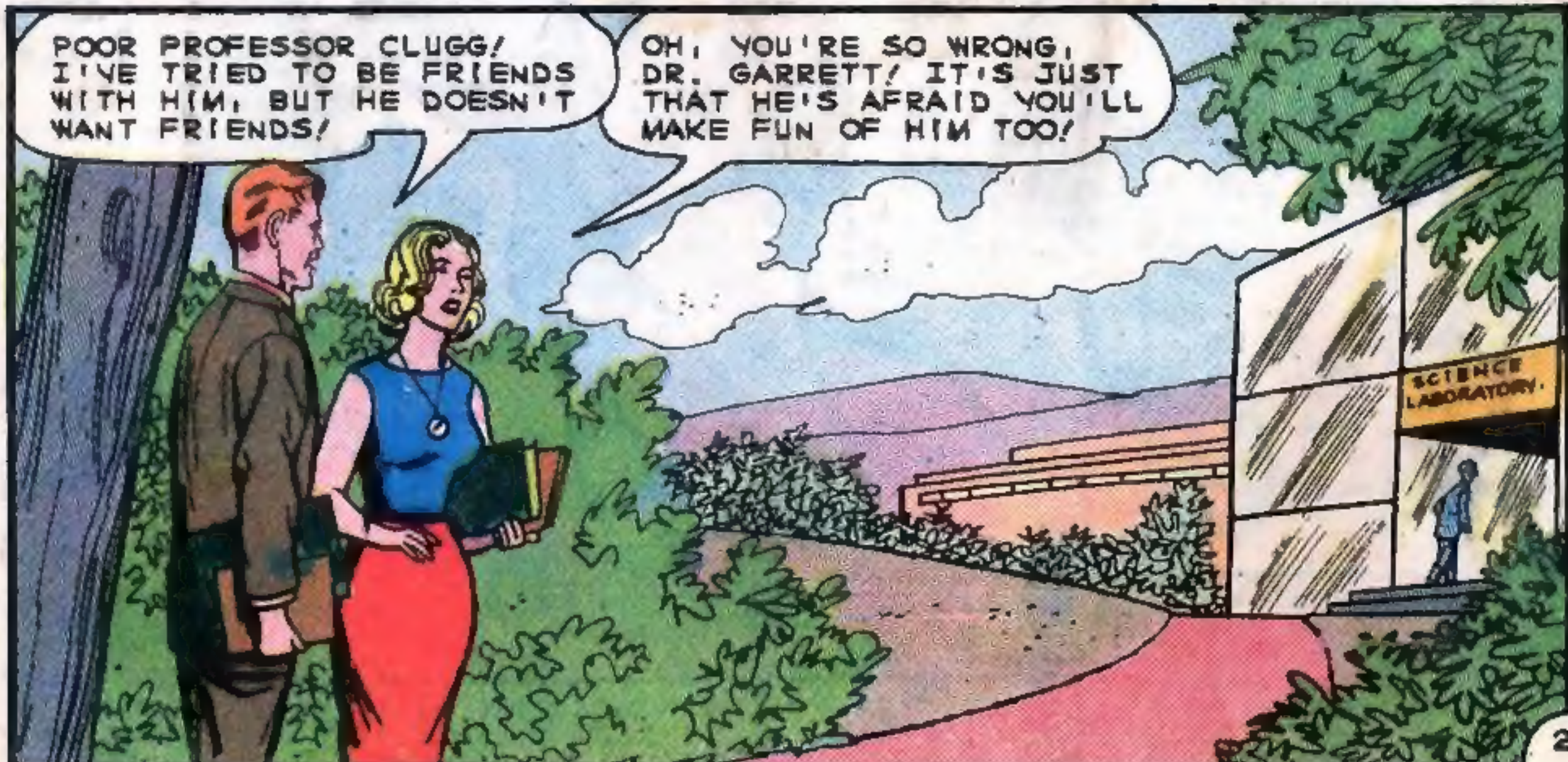
PROFESSOR CLUGG WAS FLEEING FROM THE LAUGHING MASSES ONCE AGAIN... AS HE'D BEEN DOING ALL HIS POOR, UNHAPPY LIFE! DR. GARRETT SAW IT HAPPEN...AND HE FELT SORRY FOR HIS UNFORTUNATE COLLEAGUE!

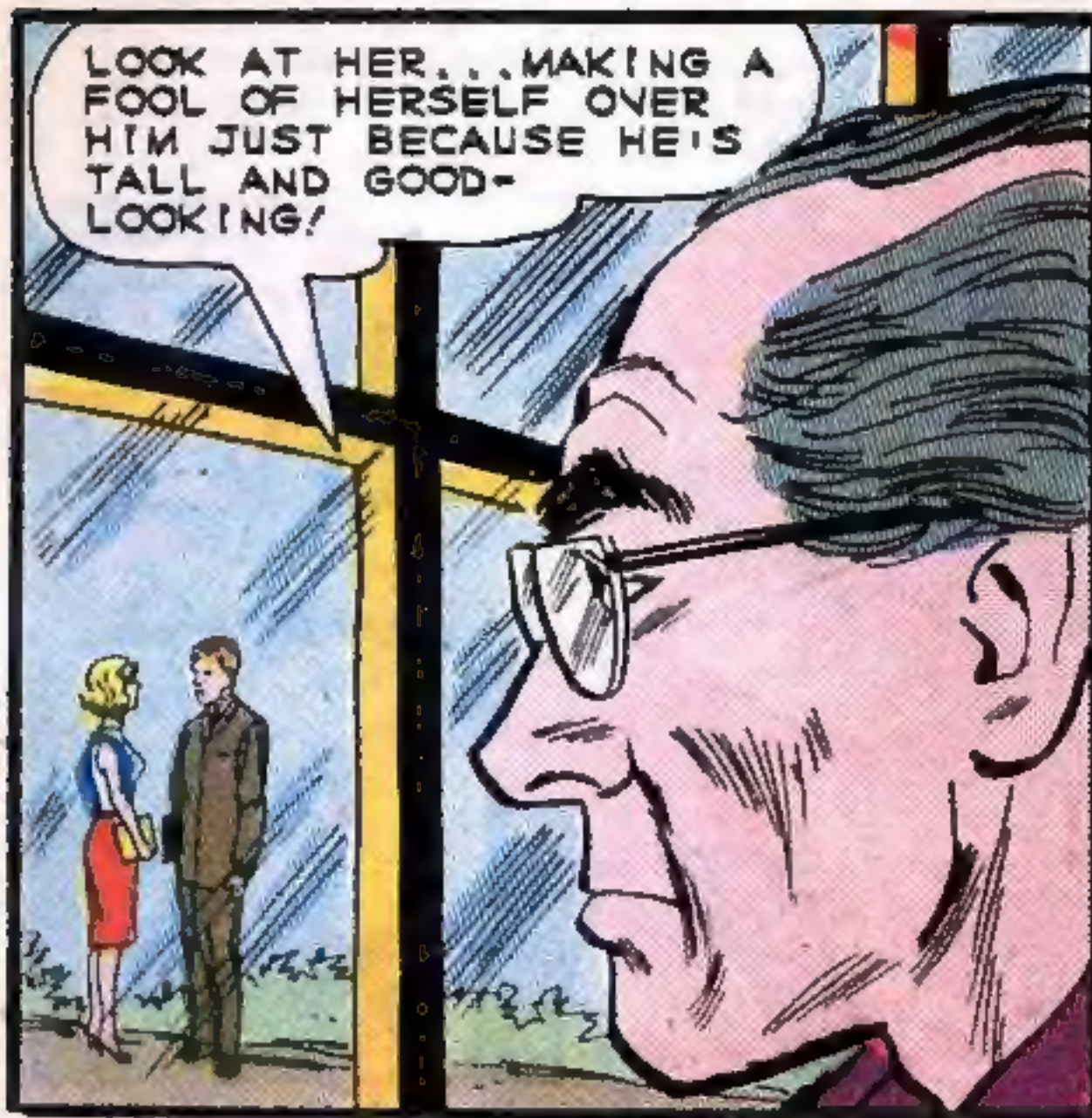
PROFESSOR CLUGG, WAIT A MINUTE!



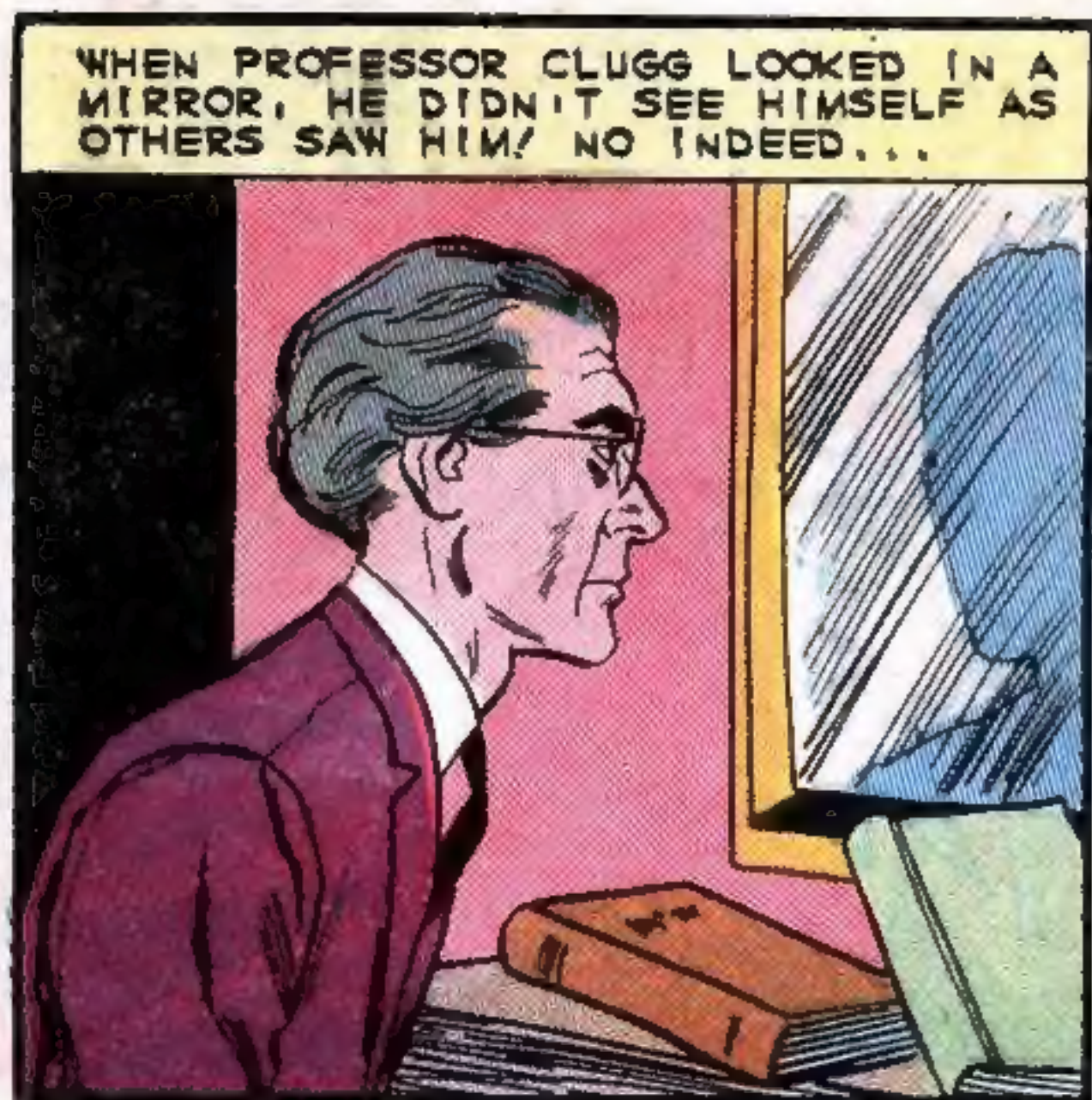
POOR PROFESSOR CLUGG! I'VE TRIED TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT FRIENDS!

OH, YOU'RE SO WRONG, DR. GARRETT! IT'S JUST THAT HE'S AFRAID YOU'LL MAKE FUN OF HIM TOO!





LOOK AT HER... MAKING A FOOL OF HERSELF OVER HIM JUST BECAUSE HE'S TALL AND GOOD-LOOKING!



WHEN PROFESSOR CLUGG LOOKED IN A MIRROR, HE DIDN'T SEE HIMSELF AS OTHERS SAW HIM! NO INDEED...



...HE SAW A HIDEOUS CARICATURE OF PROFESSOR CLUGG! HE SAW AN IMPOSSIBLY UGLY GNOME... THE RESULT OF AN ENORMOUS INFERIORITY COMPLEX!

SHE HATES ME... AND I DON'T BLAME MISS APPLETON A BIT!



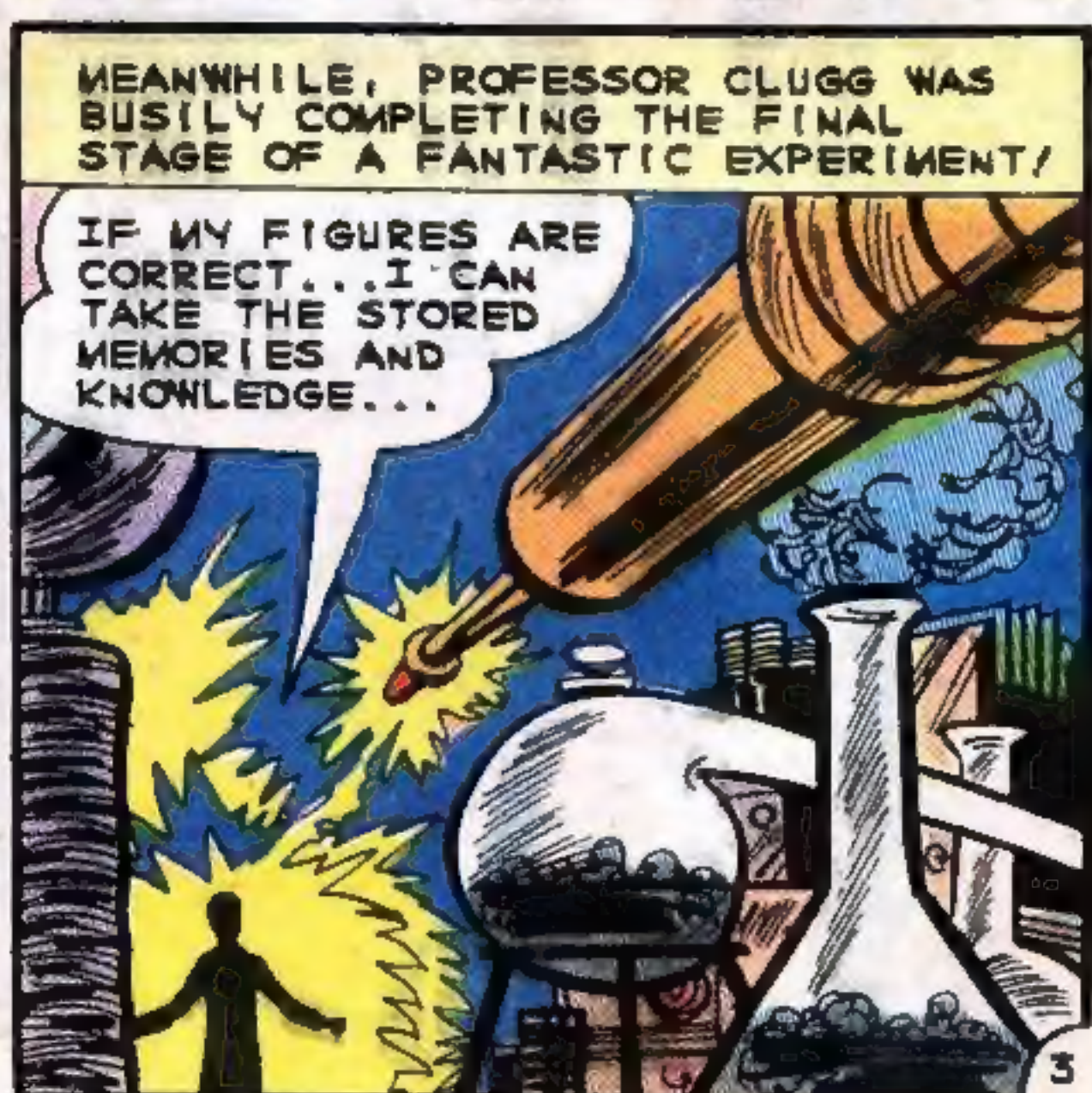
BUT MISS APPLETON, STRANGELY ENOUGH, DIDN'T HATE OR DESPISE PROFESSOR CLUGG AT ALL! ON THE CONTRARY...

HE'S SUCH A BRILLIANT MAN! HE MAY NOT BE HANDSOME BUT HE'S BASICALLY KIND AND GOOD!

HE NEEDS A FRIEND, MISS APPLETON! BE ONE TO HIM... AND IF YOU NEED HELP, JUST CALL ON ME!



POOR CLUGG... HIS MIND ISN'T VERY STABLE! IF MISS APPLETON CAN TALK TO HIM, SHE MIGHT SAVE HIM!



MEANWHILE, PROFESSOR CLUGG WAS BUSILY COMPLETING THE FINAL STAGE OF A FANTASTIC EXPERIMENT!

IF MY FIGURES ARE CORRECT... I CAN TAKE THE STORED MEMORIES AND KNOWLEDGE...

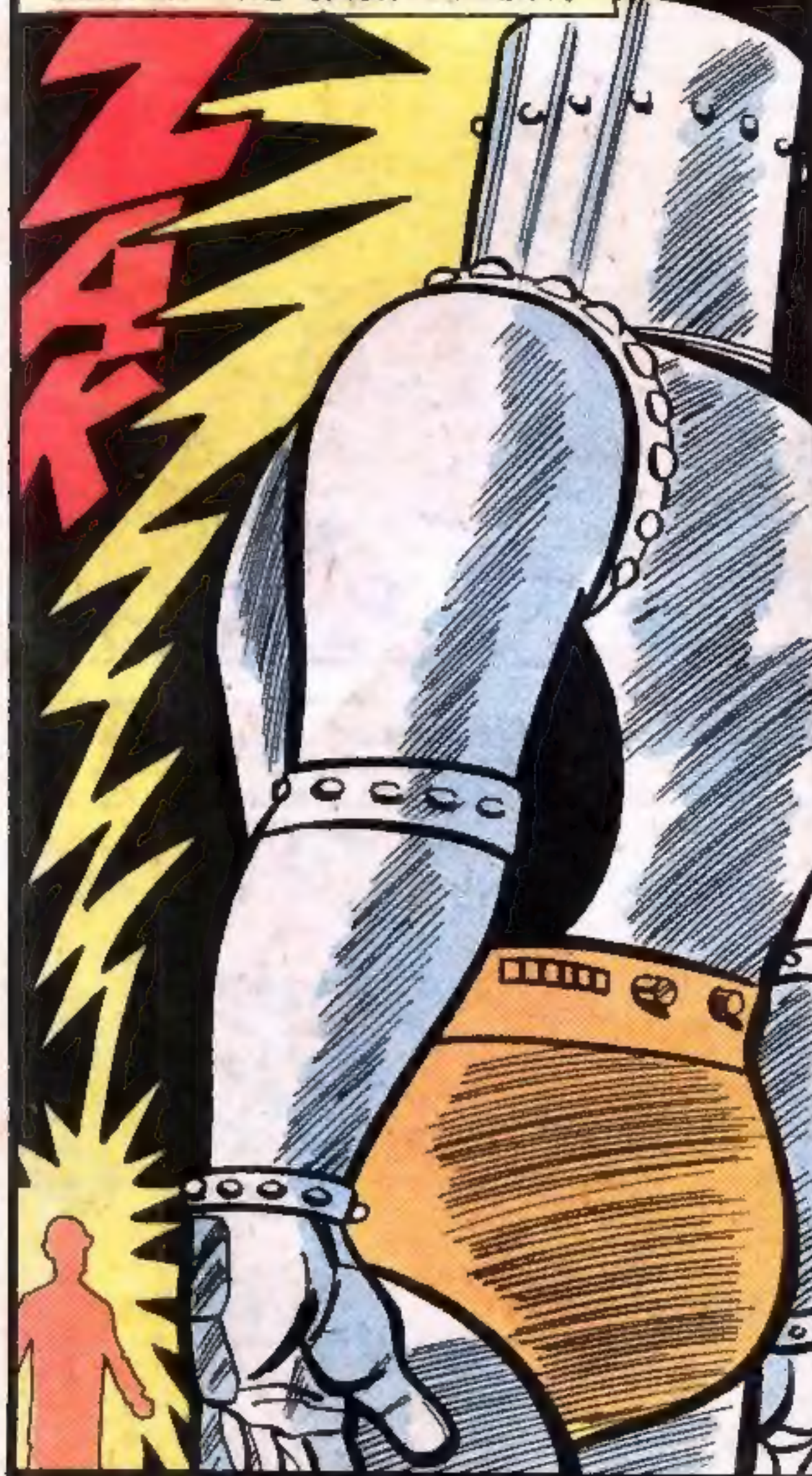
...OUT OF MY BRAIN
AND IMPRINT THEM
ON THE MEMORY CELLS
IN THE ROBOT!



APPLYING FULL VOLTAGE, JEREMIAH
CLUGG ENABLED HIS BRAIN WAVES
TO BE EXTRACTED BY THE MACHINE...



...AND THE BRAIN-WAVES CHANGED
INTO ELECTRICAL CURRENT AND HAM-
MERED INTO THE CONDENSER BANKS
INSIDE THE CONTROL CENTER OF
MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT!



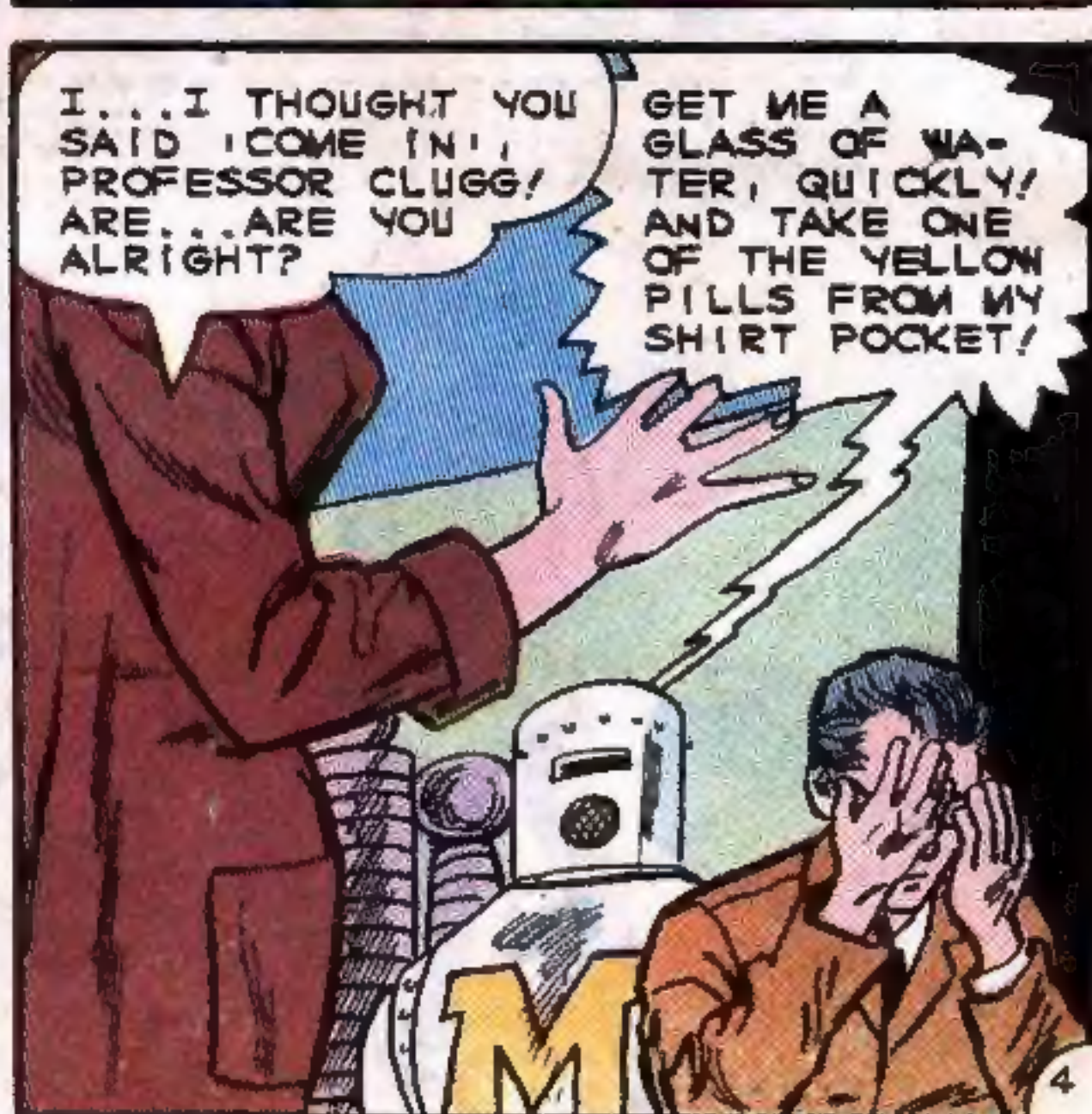
THEN, AS THE LAST HUGE ELECTRI-
CAL BOLTS SNAPPED AND CRACKLED,
THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE LABORA-
TORY DOOR! IT WAS MISS APPLETON'S
VOICE CALLING WORRIEDLY...

PROFESSOR CLUGG!
IS ANYTHING
WRONG?



I...I THOUGHT YOU
SAID 'COME IN',
PROFESSOR CLUGG!
ARE...ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

GET ME A
GLASS OF WA-
TER, QUICKLY!
AND TAKE ONE
OF THE YELLOW
PILLS FROM MY
SHIRT POCKET!



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES



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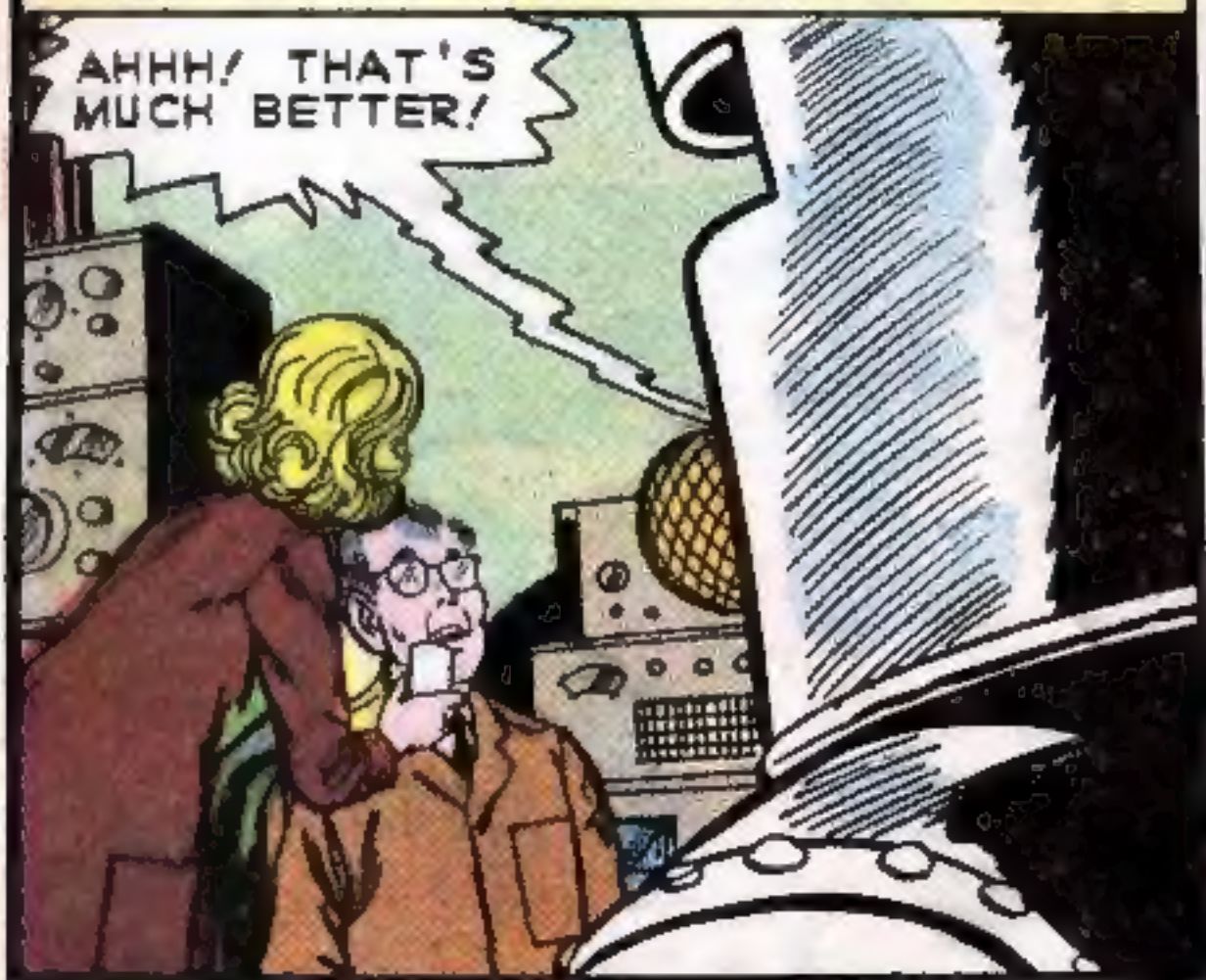
**THE
FIGHTIN'
5**

**SON OF
VULCAN**



OBEYING WHAT SEEMED TO BE PROFESSOR CLUGG'S OWN VOICE COMING FROM THE ROBOT, THE LOVELY LAB ASSISTANT ADMINISTERED THE MEDICATION AND WATER...

AHHH! THAT'S MUCH BETTER!



PROFESSOR CLUGG, I'M GLAD YOU'RE CONSCIOUS AGAIN! I HEARD YOUR VOICE... BUT IT CAME FROM THE ROBOT!

AN HALLUCINATION, MISS APPLETON!



YOU WERE TALKING WITH DR. GARRETT! WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT ME?

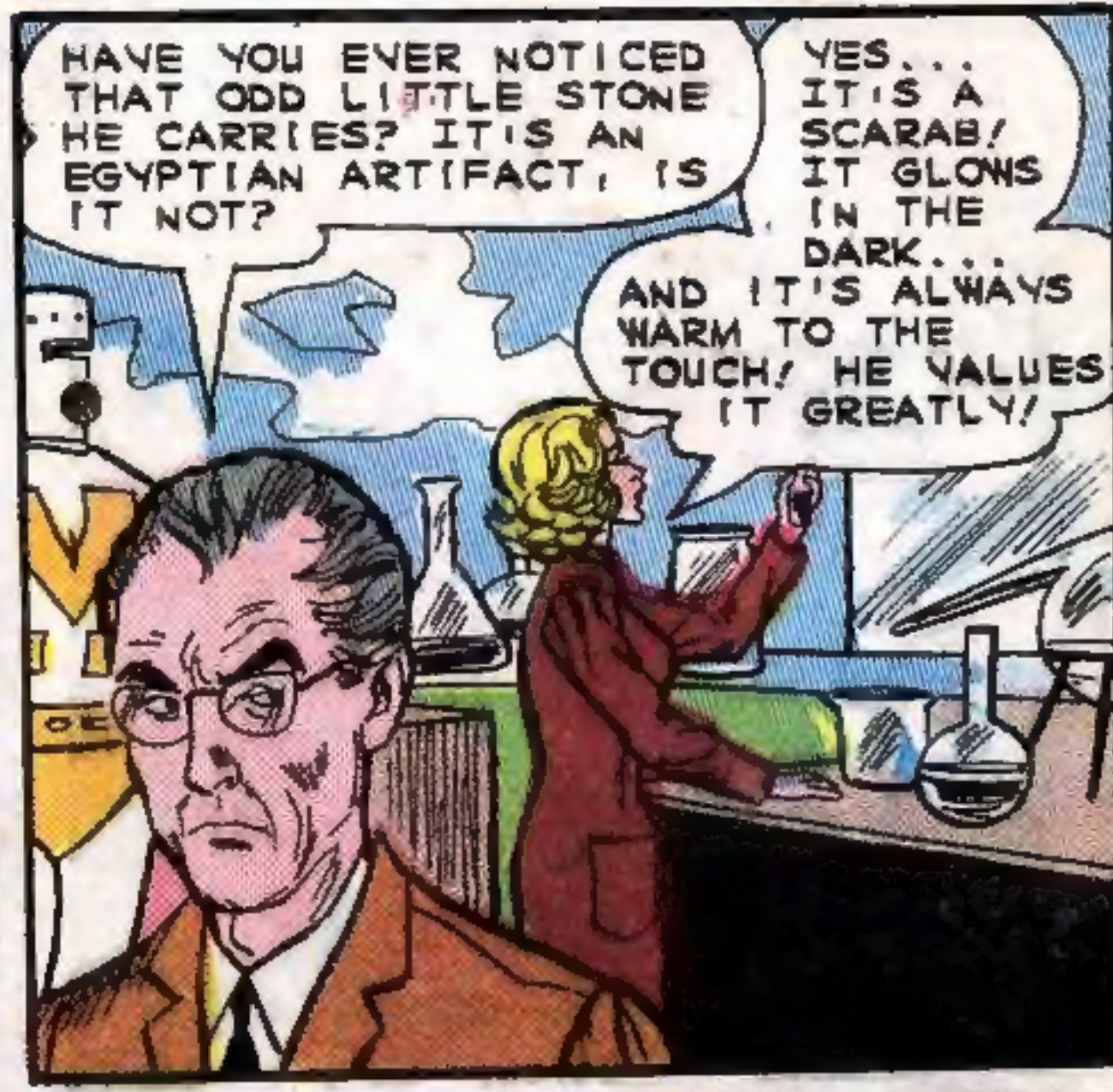
ONLY THAT HE ADMIRES YOUR WORK, PROFESSOR! HE KNOWS YOU'RE A BRILLIANT MAN JUST AS I DO...



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT ODD LITTLE STONE HE CARRIES? IT'S AN EGYPTIAN ARTIFACT, IS IT NOT?

YES... IT'S A SCARAB! IT GLOWS IN THE DARK...

AND IT'S ALWAYS WARM TO THE TOUCH! HE VALUES IT GREATLY!



THEN, MENTOR SPOKE! WITHOUT BEING DIRECTED TO BY PROFESSOR CLUGG, HIS CREATOR AND OPERATOR!

OBTAIN THE SCARAB, MASTERS! FIND OUT WHY DR. GARRETT TREASURES IT SO!

I BEG YOUR PARDON, PROFESSOR? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?



HMMM? NO! NO, I DIDN'T SAY A WORD, MISS APPLETON!



IN THE EGYPTIAN ROOM OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ARCHEOLOGY BUILDING THE PROFESSOR FOUND DR. DAN GARRETT...

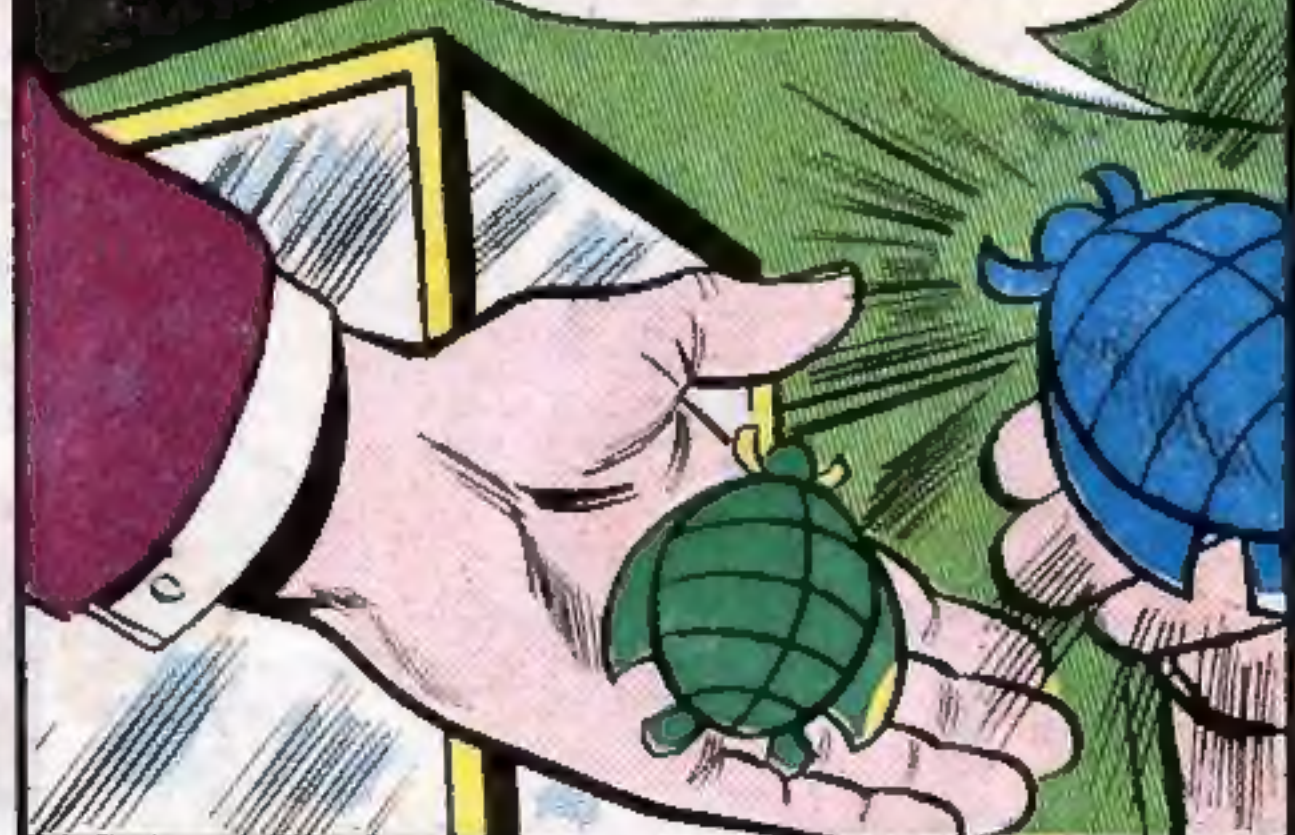
HELLO, PROFESSOR CLUGG! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'VE GOT A QUESTION, DR. GARRETT! IT'S SOMETHING YOU'D KNOW ABOUT...



A STUDENT PRESENTED ME WITH THIS JADE SCARAB! I WONDERED IF IT WERE OF CHINESE OR EGYPTIAN ORIGIN...

EGYPTIAN! IN FACT... I HAVE ONE VERY MUCH LIKE IT... BUT MY BEETLE IS BLUE!



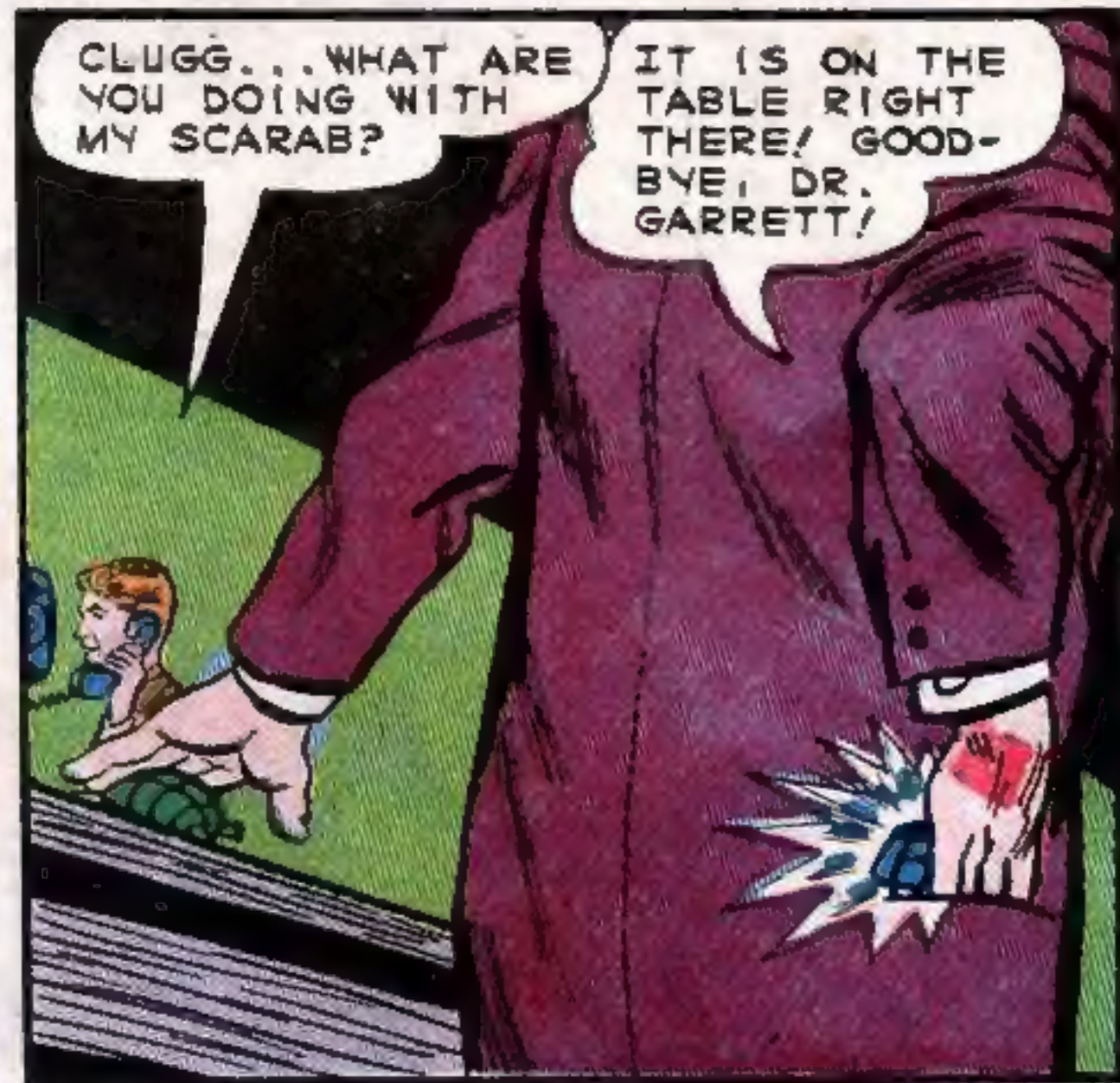
IT HAS A STRANGE GLOW... AND IT IS VERY WARM TO THE TOUCH! A BLUE BEETLE... THAT SOUNDS SO FAMILIAR!

PARDON ME A MOMENT, PROFESSOR! I MUST ANSWER THE TELEPHONE...



CLUGG... WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY SCARAB?

IT IS ON THE TABLE RIGHT THERE! GOOD-BYE, DR. GARRETT!



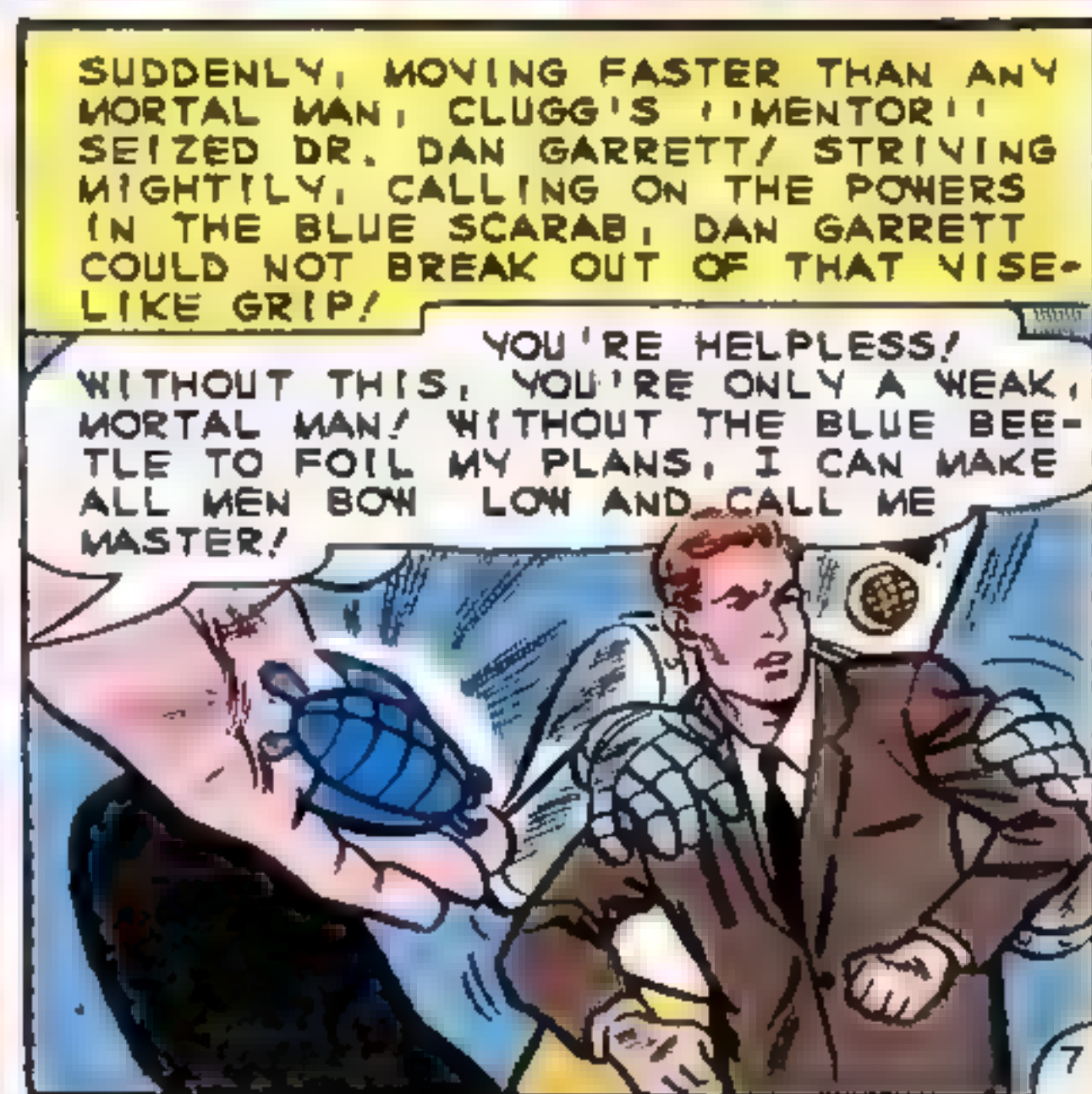
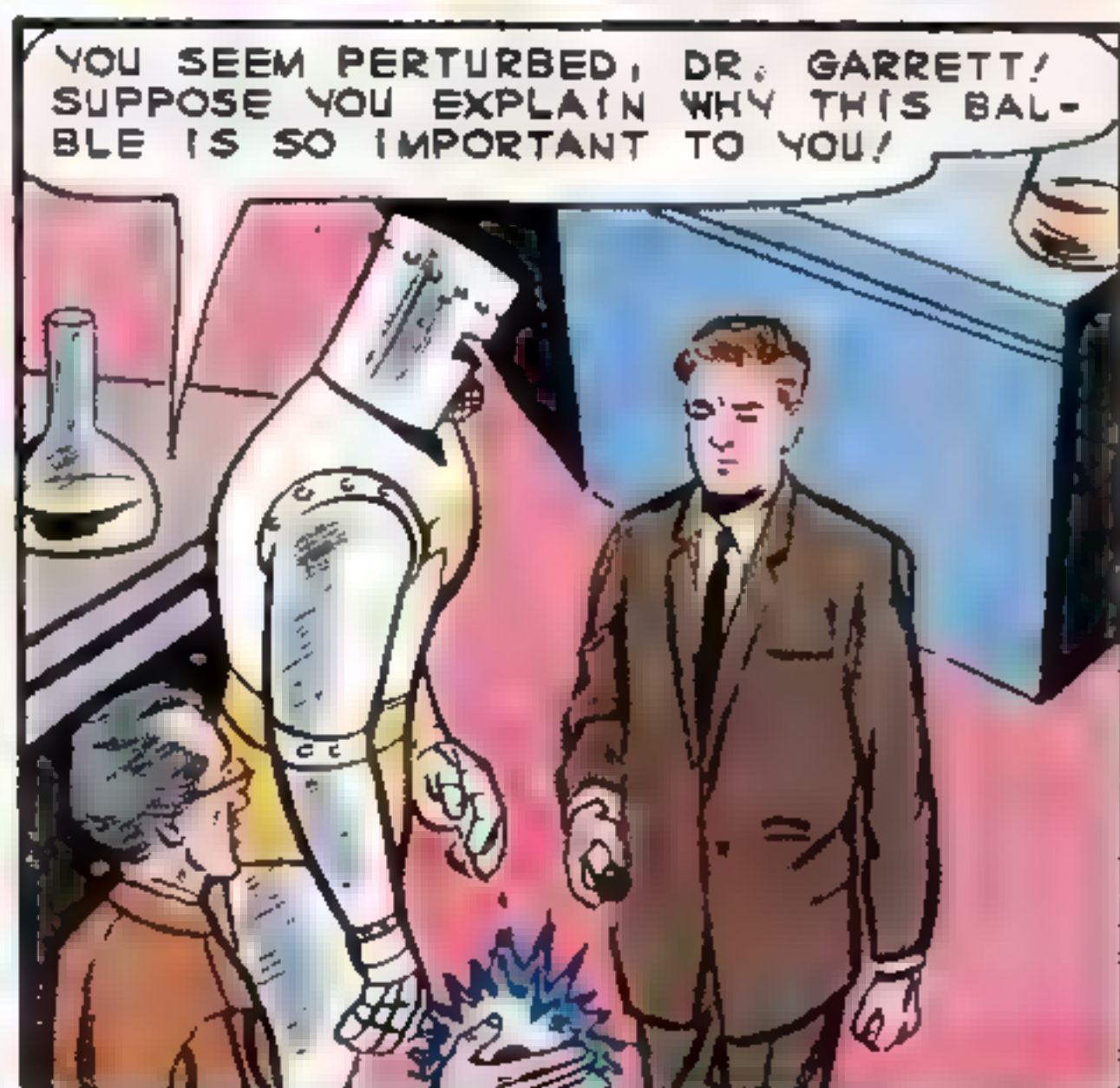
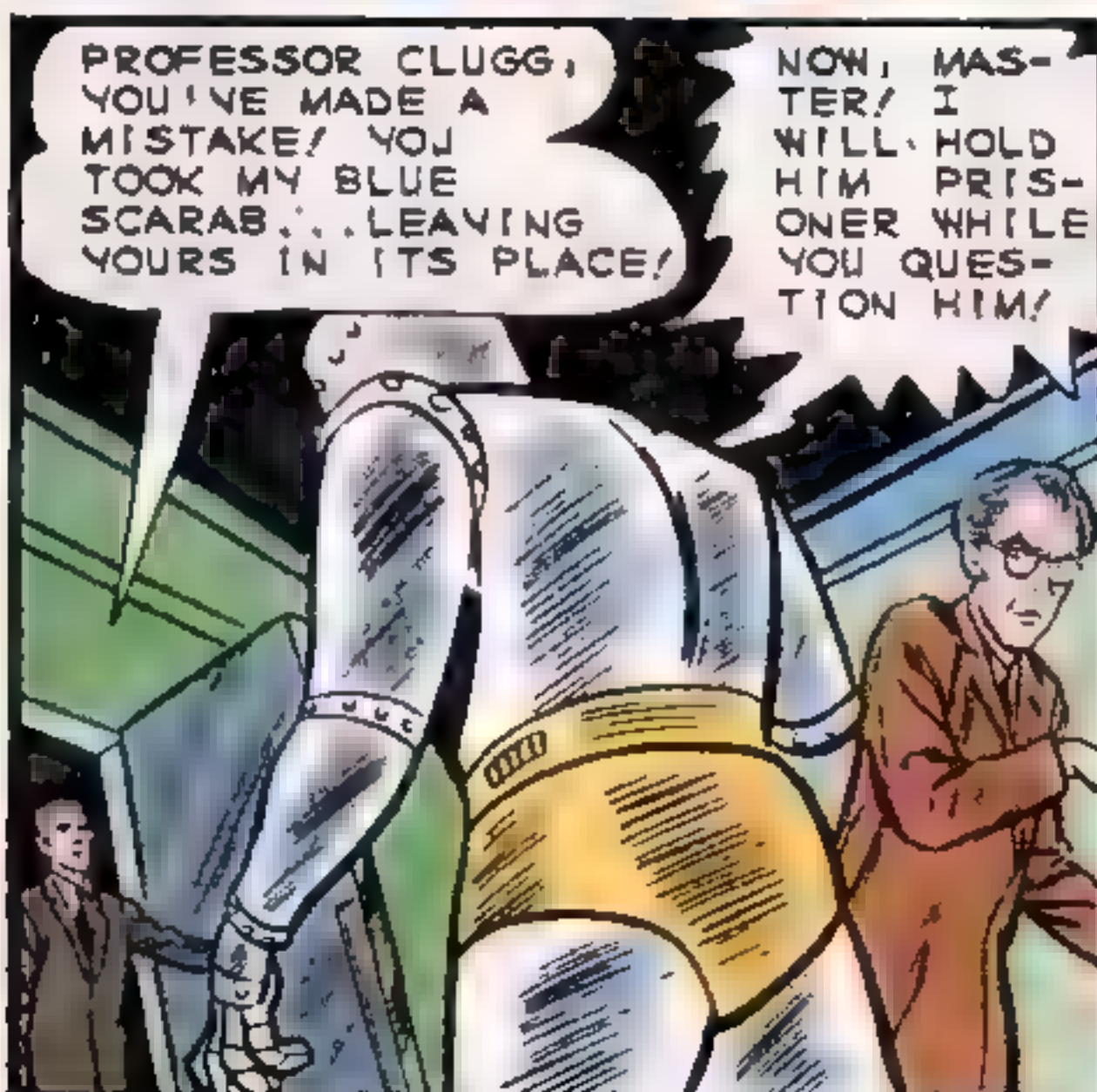
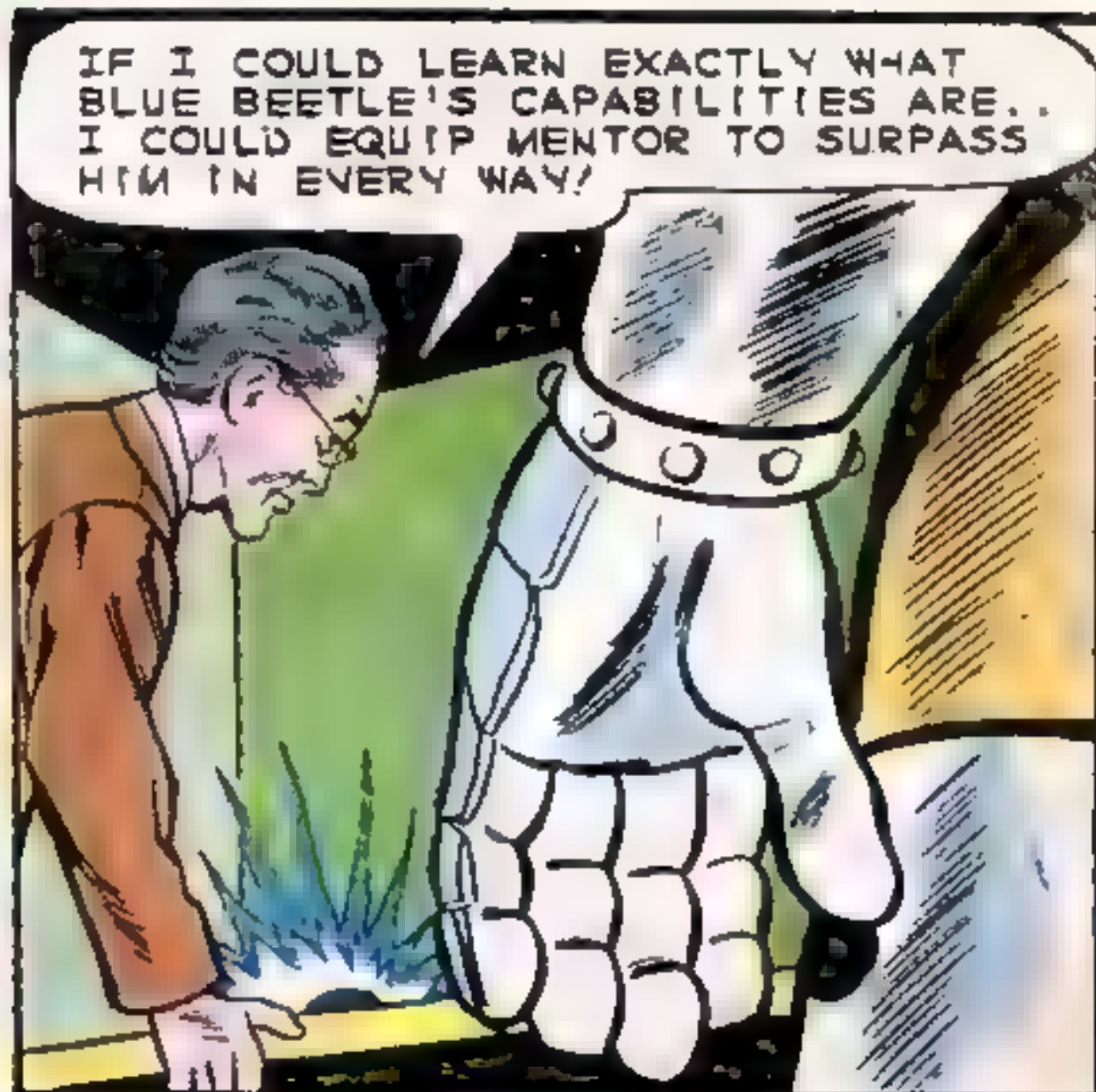
IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN LAB, PROFESSOR CLUGG EXAMINED THE GLOWING BLUE SCARAB... WHICH WAS THE SOURCE OF MUCH OF THE POWER OF THE BLUE BEETLE!

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND! WHY DOES IT SHINE? WHY DOES DR. GARRETT VALUE IT AS HE DOES?

REMEMBER WHEN THE CREATURE THEY CALLED BLUE BEETLE FOILED THAT ARCH CRIMINAL, MR. THUNDER-BOLT?

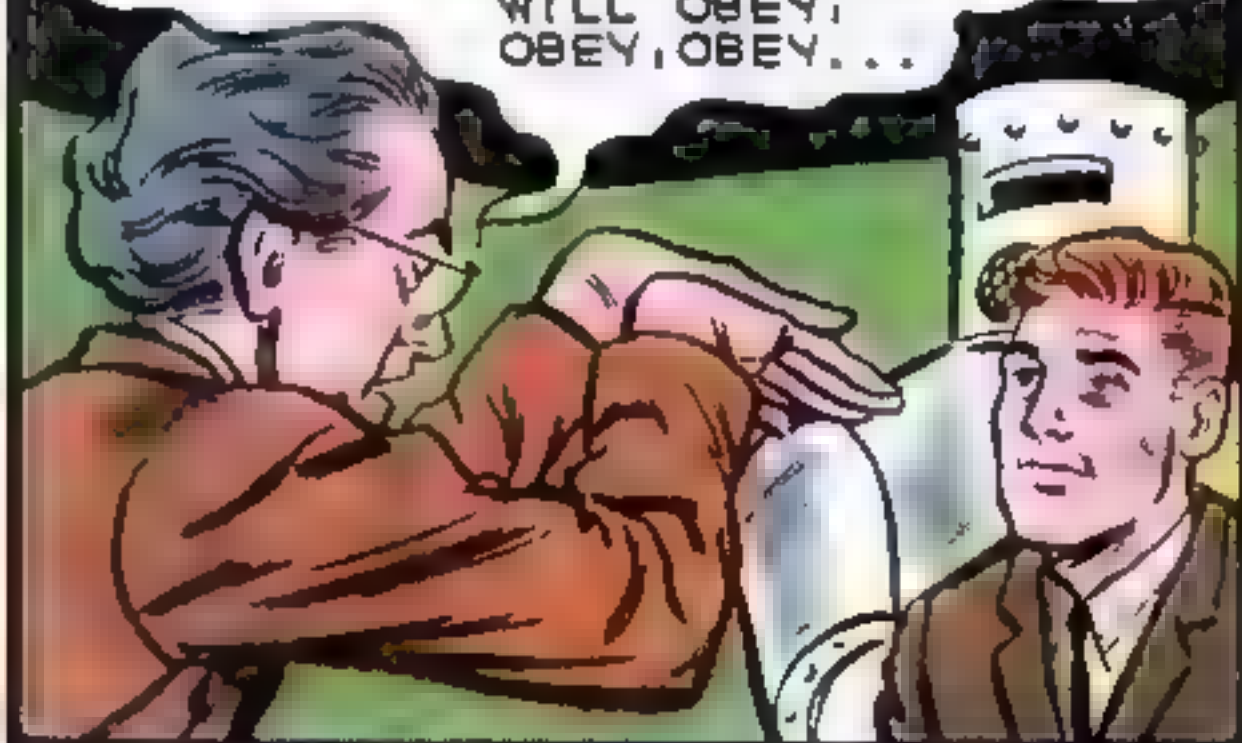


* SEE ISSUE #3



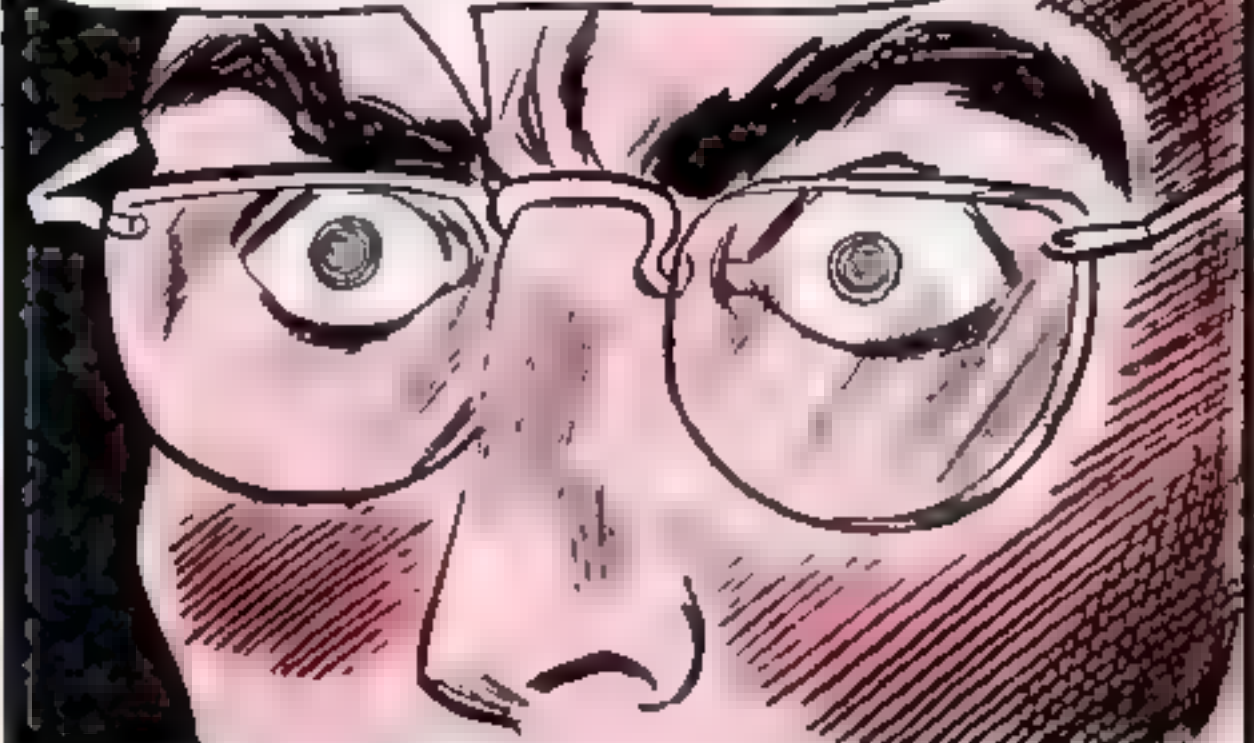
THE BURNING EYES OF JEREMIAH CLUGG FIXED ON THOSE OF DR. DAN GARRETT! SUDDENLY... HIS BONY HAND SHOT OUT AND POINTED AT THE ARCHEOLOGIST! HIS VOICE HAD AN EEBIE QUALITY AS HE SAID...

LOOK AT ME, DR. GARRETT! THERE ARE SECRET THINGS THAT I MUST KNOW... YOU ARE LISTENING, YOU WILL OBEY, OBEY, OBEY...



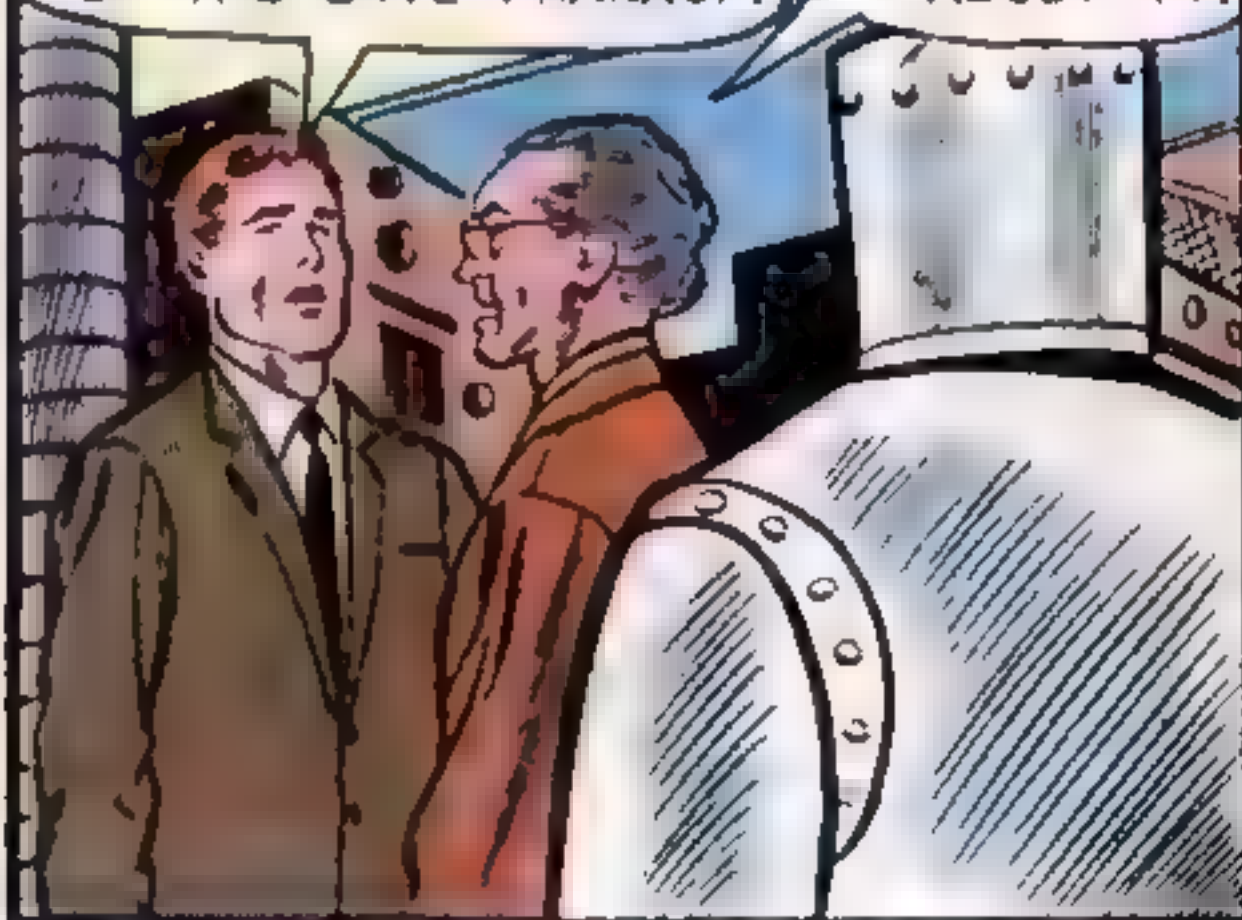
CLUGG, A BRILLIANT HYPNOTIST, HAD TAKEN DR. GARRETT UNAWARE! AND THE ARCHEOLOGIST WAS SUDDENLY A PUPPET OF CLUGG'S WILL...

NOW, DR. GARRETT... DESCRIBE THE POWERS OF THE BLUE BEETLE! HOW DID BLUE BEETLE GAIN THESE POWERS? IN WHAT WAY DOES HE EMPLOY THE GLOWING BLUE SCARAB?

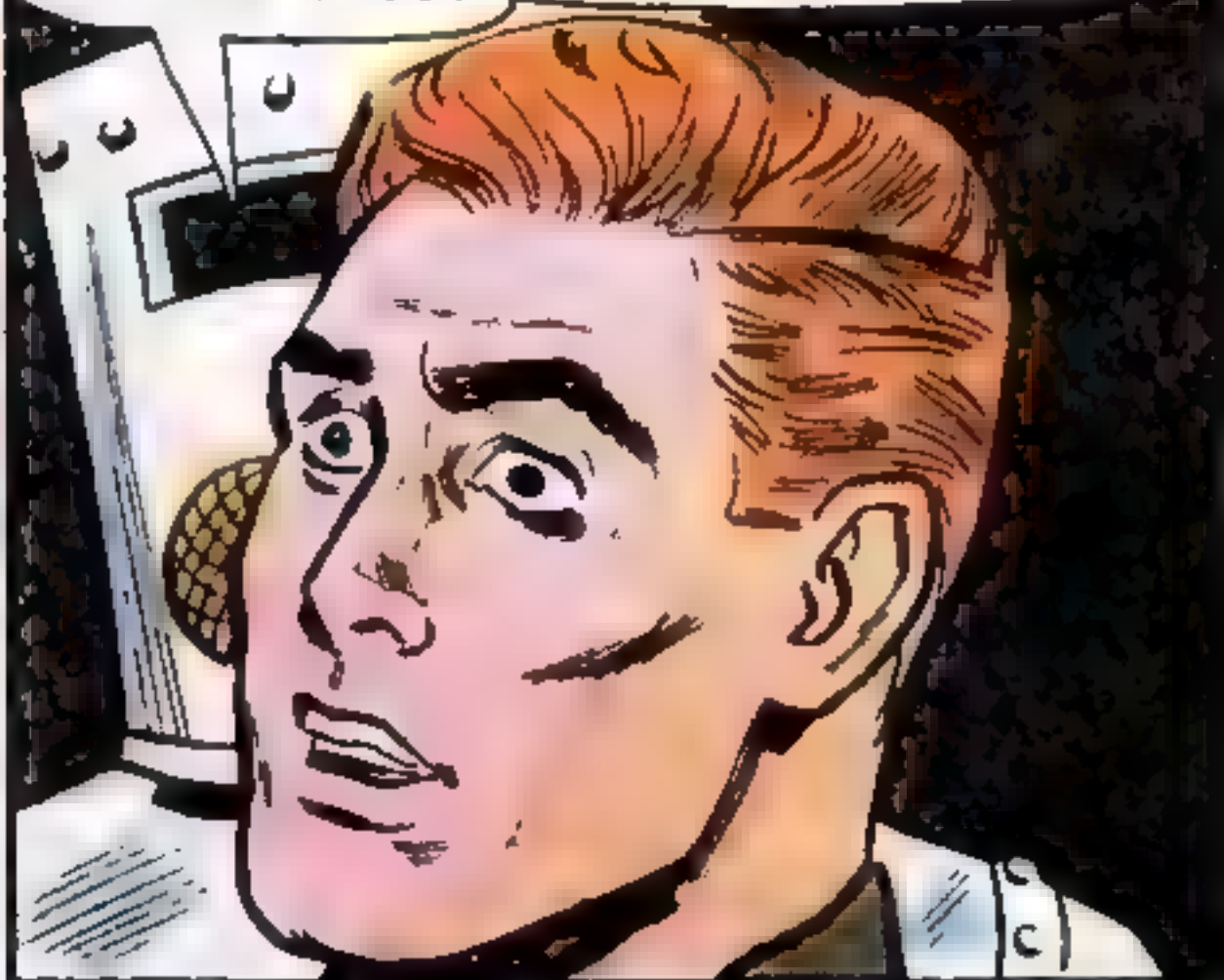


IN EGYPT THERE WAS THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE! I FOUND THE BLUE SCARAB GUARDING THE MUMMY OF THE EVIL PHARAOH!

GO ON, GO ON! DID YOU JUST PICK UP THE SCARAB AND KNOW ALL ABOUT IT?



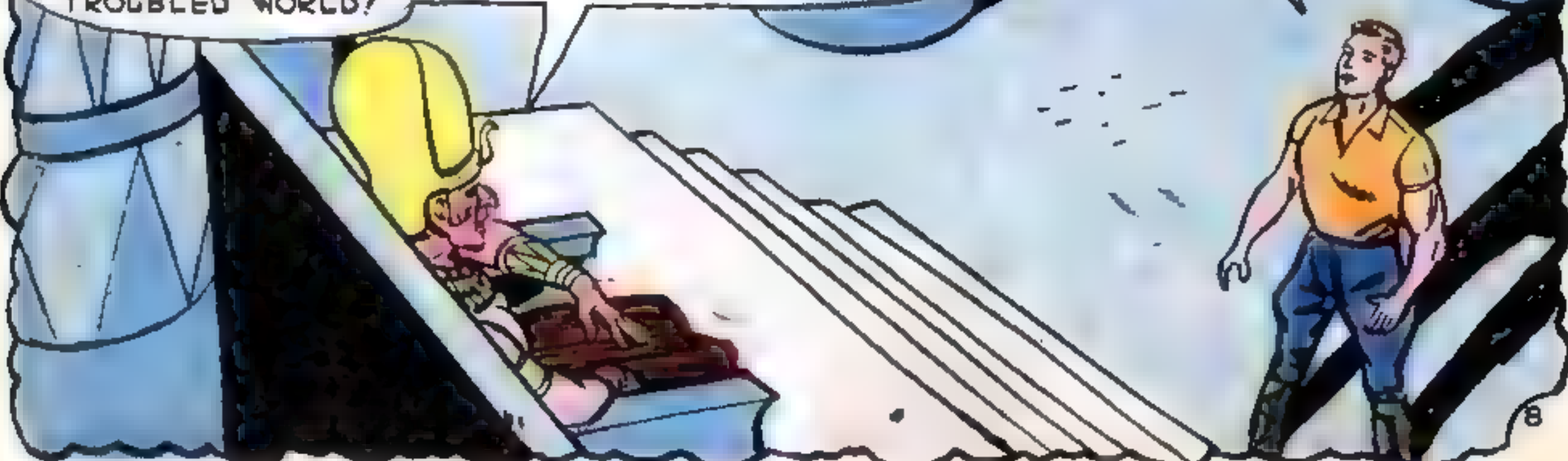
NO! WHEN I LIFTED THE BLUE BEETLE IN MY HAND, I FELT THE HEAT AND POWER BUT I DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE IT...



"I HELD THE SCARAB, I SEEMED TO DREAM A DREAM," DR. GARRETT EXPLAINED! "A GREAT PHARAOH APPEARED ON THE JEWELLED THRONE WHICH HAD BEEN EMPTY A MOMENT BEFORE!"

YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE SACRED SCARAB, DR. GARRETT! IT WAS MY POWER THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE AND IT IS MY WILL THAT YOU CARRY ON MY WORK IN YOUR MODERN WORLD! I WILL ENDOW YOU WITH TREMENDOUS POWERS... IF YOU WILL CHAMPION VIRTUE AND COMBAT EVIL IN YOUR TROUBLED WORLD!

I WILL DO AS YOU SAY, MIGHTY PHARAOH!



11 CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

THE BEETLE'S NEST

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on BLUE BEETLE, FIGHTIN' FIVE, TARZAN, and the new SON OF VULCAN. GORGO and KONGA are still my favorites but if Charlton continues to publish the super-heroes that may change.

CAPTAIN ATOM has not come out here in Asheville yet, but when it does I will certainly buy it.

Mike McCurry
26 Henrietta St.
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your congratulations on our comics. It is good to know that people appreciate your efforts. I can't understand why CAPTAIN ATOM is not on sale in your neighborhood. We have been getting tons of mail from readers telling us how much they liked the first issue. Go down to your local newsstand and tell the dealer what he's missing. If that doesn't work we will send Blue Beetle out there to give him a jolt



Dear Editor:

BLUE BEETLE no. 4 proved to be nothing short of great. "The Praying Mantis-Man" was undoubtedly the best BB yarn thus far. His first battle with a super-hero was very successful. Keep improving like this and you'll have the most popular super-hero on the stands next year.

Who is the artist that graces the pages of BB? He indeed deserves much credit! His first attempt in BB No. 1 showed that he needed experience in drawing super-heroes. Issue No. 4 shows he has gained that experience and his art has even more potential. Keep up the good work "Mister Artist."

I'm all for bringing back Captain Atom. Just let us know How, When, Where!

Dennis Knutt
Rural Route 2, Box 272
Augusta, Wisc. 54722

Dear Dennis:

Tony Tallarico and Bill Fraccio are the artists. They have signed their names in this issue and will continue to from now on. Captain Atom is on sale NOW!

Dear Editor:

When I saw BLUE BEETLE No. 1 I thought the comic was quite good so I bought it. When I saw the cover of No. 2 it looked good so I bought it, but when I looked inside, the story had gone down! My Mom got me BLUE BEETLE No. 3 and when I had got it, I'd had enough! They weren't any good so I sold them! When BLUE BEETLE No. 4 came out, it was better than No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, put together so I hopped to it! Why?

1. The art work and story was much better!
2. It had a pin-up page!
3. It had a great villain.
4. It had a great idea; a contest!

Ronnie Lightburn
Box 142
West VanCouver, B.C.
Canada

Dear Ronnie:

I hope you like this one best of all. More contests are coming.



Dear Editor:

I liked the new costume that Alan Weiss designed for Blue Beetle.

One more thing, since the Red Knight is normal again why not have him and Mr. Thunderbolt team up with Blue Beetle and form a super-hero club. It could be called "The Allies". The readers would love it!

David E. Lewis
P.O. Box 117
Marshall, Indiana

Dear David:

We liked Alan Weiss' costume as well as you did but the readers voted to keep the costume as it is. We promised to abide by their wishes.

Having a super-hero club called "The Allies" sounds pretty good. Maybe we will take your suggestion. Thanks a lot.



Dear Editor:

I have just bought BLUE BEETLE #5 today. It had a beautiful cover, the best one to date. The Challenge of the Red Knight was very good. The splash page was excellent, try to use the title logo in every issue. The only thing wrong was the end. The Red Knight is a good foe and I hope to see more of him. But why not give your other mags letter columns? Here is the way I rate your mags:

1. SARGE STEEL: Although only up to #2 it has beautiful art by Dick Giordano and above average plots by Joe Gill. The covers are also the best put out by Charlton.

2. BLUE BEETLE: Although the artwork is just average Gill does a good job, I also like the weird assortment of villains BB has. Let's have a regular foe too.

3. FIGHTIN' FIVE: Montes and Bache produce very good artwork but it was not until #31 that the plots started to pick up.

4. TARZAN: I hope you still intend to publish this excellent mag. Your TARZAN is much better than Gold Key's both plot and story wise.

5. GUNMASTER & BULLET: Not much to say about this comic. It has below average art and stories.

6. SIX-GUN HEROES: Eh! I just buy an issue once in a while.

7. DANIEL BOONE. Terrible, fair artwork but rotten plots. If you are going to improve him try to have two-12 page adventures, but I doubt that I will buy another issue unless it improves.

I will give my comments on CAPTAIN ATOM when it comes out, and if it sells good enough how about letting Giordano or the Montes-Bache team do it? Oh yes, Alan Weiss did a beautiful job on BB. I insist you change his costume to Weiss' idea. To close off this letter you said in BB #5 that we are going to see more heroes so I can hardly wait for Captain Atom and Vulcan to come out.

Robert Strezelecki
65 Jester Lane
Levittown, New York 11756

P.S. I hope to see long letters in BB as they make it more interesting.

Dear Robert:

As you can see we took your suggestion about longer letters, yours is the longest of them all. Now let's go over your seven points one by one:

1. Thank you for the compliment. We will try to keep improving.

2. You are going to see a wider assortment of villains as time goes by.

3. Montes and Bache thank you.

4. TARZAN is still swinging through the trees and we don't intend to shoot him down.

5. Most of the readers disagree with you but we are trying to improve it.

6 & 7. We agree with you about both of these books and to prove it we discontinued publishing them.

I have explained in another letter why we can't change Beetle's costume but as a consolation prize we are going to give Alan Weiss a free subscription to BB.



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WHILE MENTOR GUARDED THE EN-
TRANCED ARCHEOLOGIST, JEREMIAH
CLUGG CONTINUED THE INTERROGA-
TION...

THESE POWERS ARE
UNLIMITED, DR.
GARRETT?

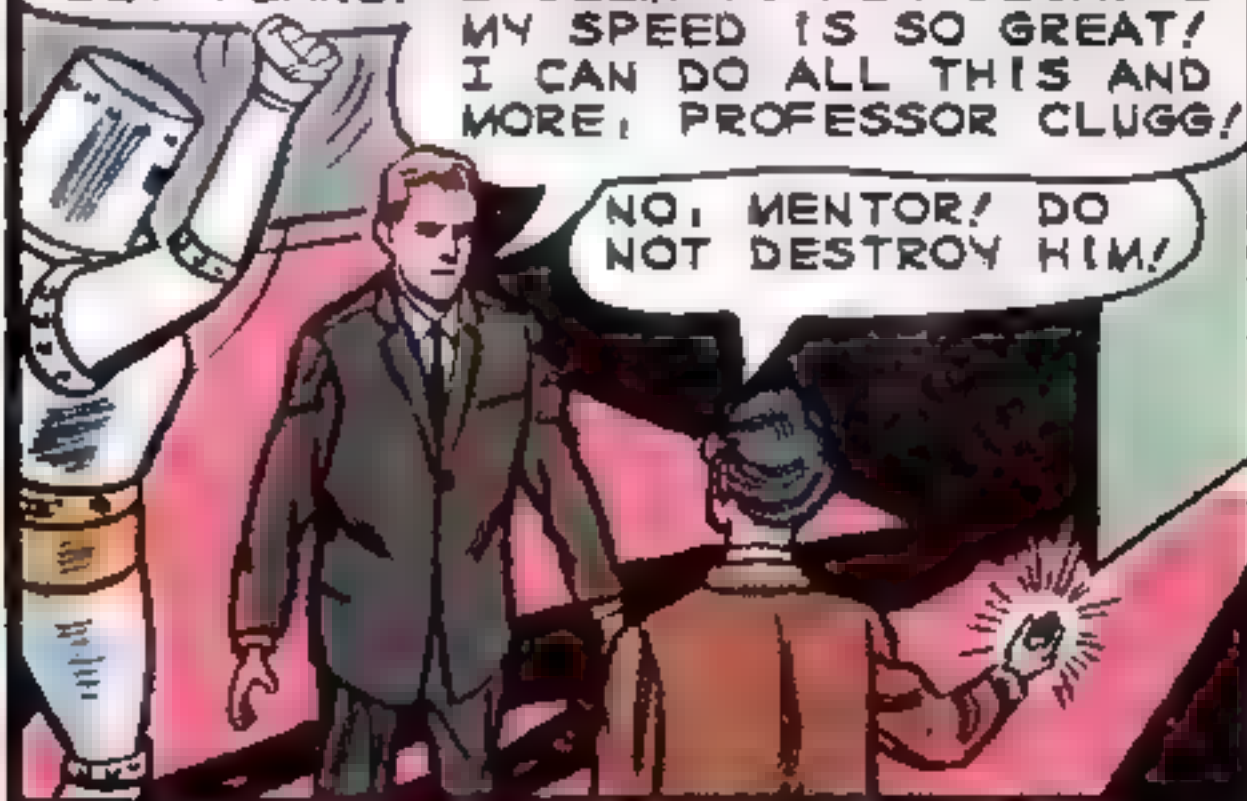
OH, NO! THE
PHARAOH PRO-
MISED ONLY
THAT THE

BLUE BEETLE
WOULD ENHANCE MY
NATURAL FACILITIES!

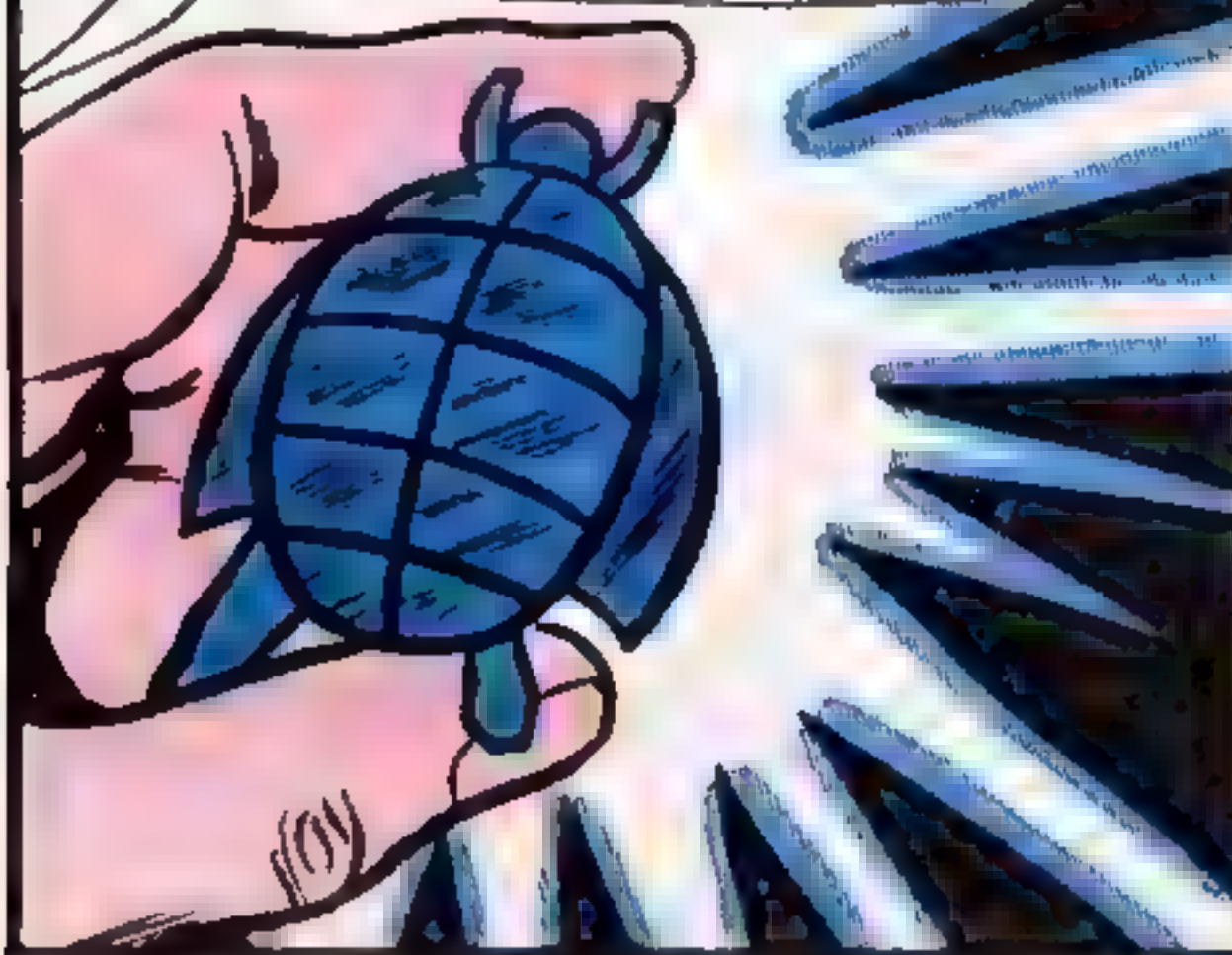


I HEAR BETTER THAN YOU OR THIS
DEVICE YOU REFER TO AS MENTOR! I
CALL IT AURALEVITY...AND I DE-
TECT THE SLIGHTEST WHISPERS EVEN
ONE HUNDRED MILES AWAY! THANKS
TO THE LIMITLESS ENERGY SUPPLIED
BY THE SUN-GOD, RA, I CAN RUN
FASTER AND JUMP HIGHER THAN A
JET PLANE! I SEEM TO FLY BECAUSE
MY SPEED IS SO GREAT! I CAN DO ALL THIS AND
MORE, PROFESSOR CLUGG!

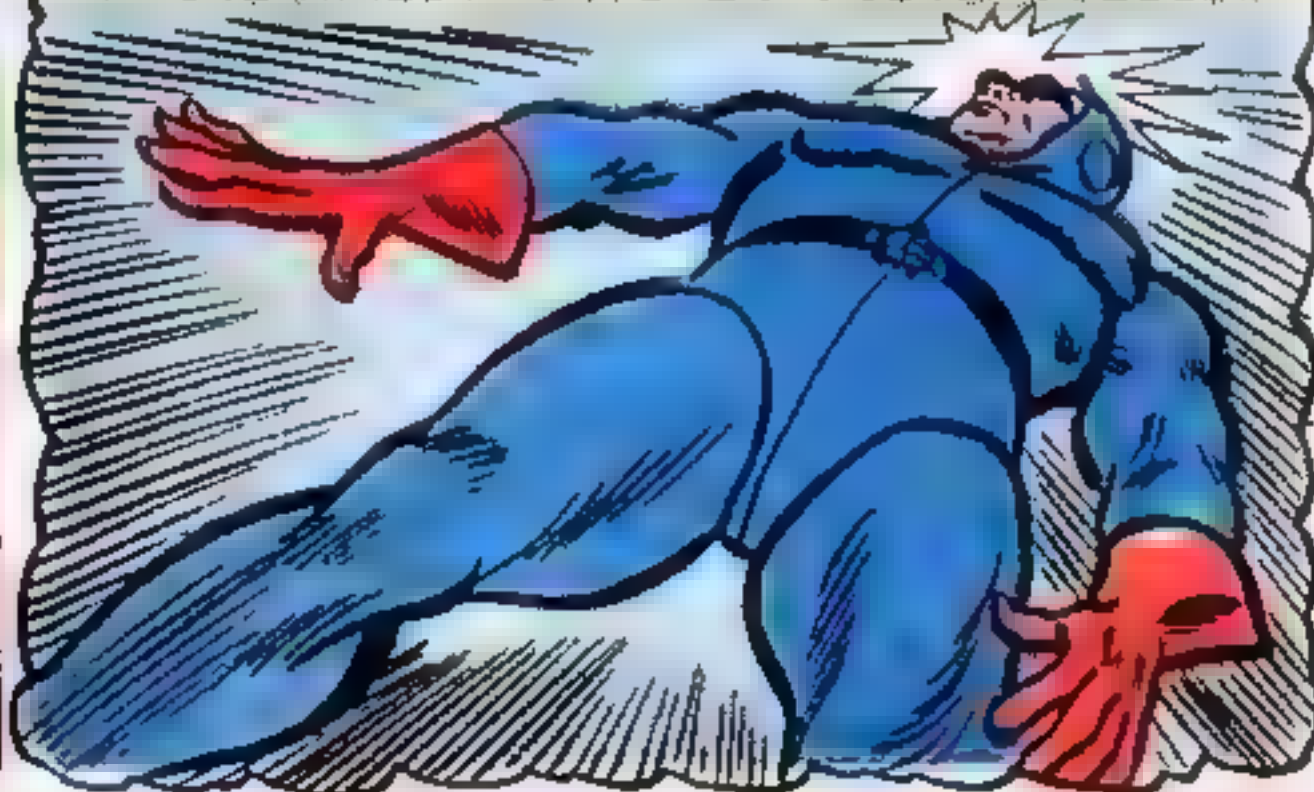
NO, MENTOR! DO
NOT DESTROY HIM!



HE SHALL SURPASS YOU IN EVERY
WAY! ONCE I TAKE MY PLACE INSIDE
THAT FLAWLESS MACHINE, I WILL NO
LONGER BE LAUGHED AT! NO ONE
WILL EVER RIDICULE ME AGAIN!

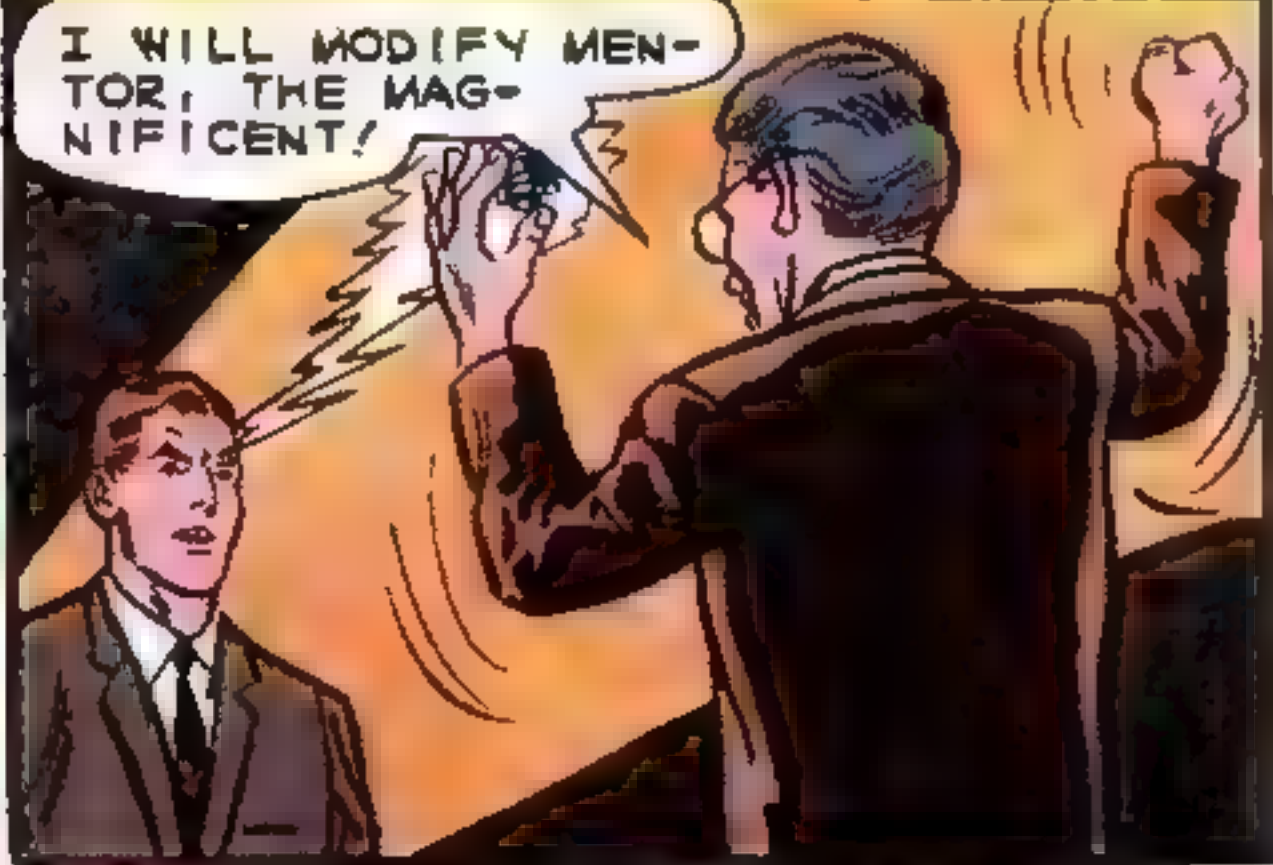


"WHEN THE POWER OF THE BLUE SCARAB
TRANSFORMS ME INTO THE BLUE BEE-
TLE, MY EYES UTILIZE A WIDER BAND
OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM
THAN YOURS, CLUGG! THE INFRA-RED
BAND ENABLES ME TO SEE THROUGH
FOG, SMOKE, OR DARKNESS! THE UL-
TRAVIOLET FREQUENCIES PERMIT ME TO
SEE THROUGH SOLID MATTER SUCH AS
STONE WALLS OR EVEN SOLID STEEL!"



THE INFURIATED AND JEALOUS PHY-
SICIST FORGOT CAUTION AS HE RAIL-
ED AT THE HYPNOTIZED DR. GAR-
RETT! AND, UNNOTICED, THE BLUE
SCARAB GLOWED MORE BRIGHTLY...
AND ITS LIGHT SEEMED TO REACH OUT
TOWARD ITS HELPLESS OWNER!

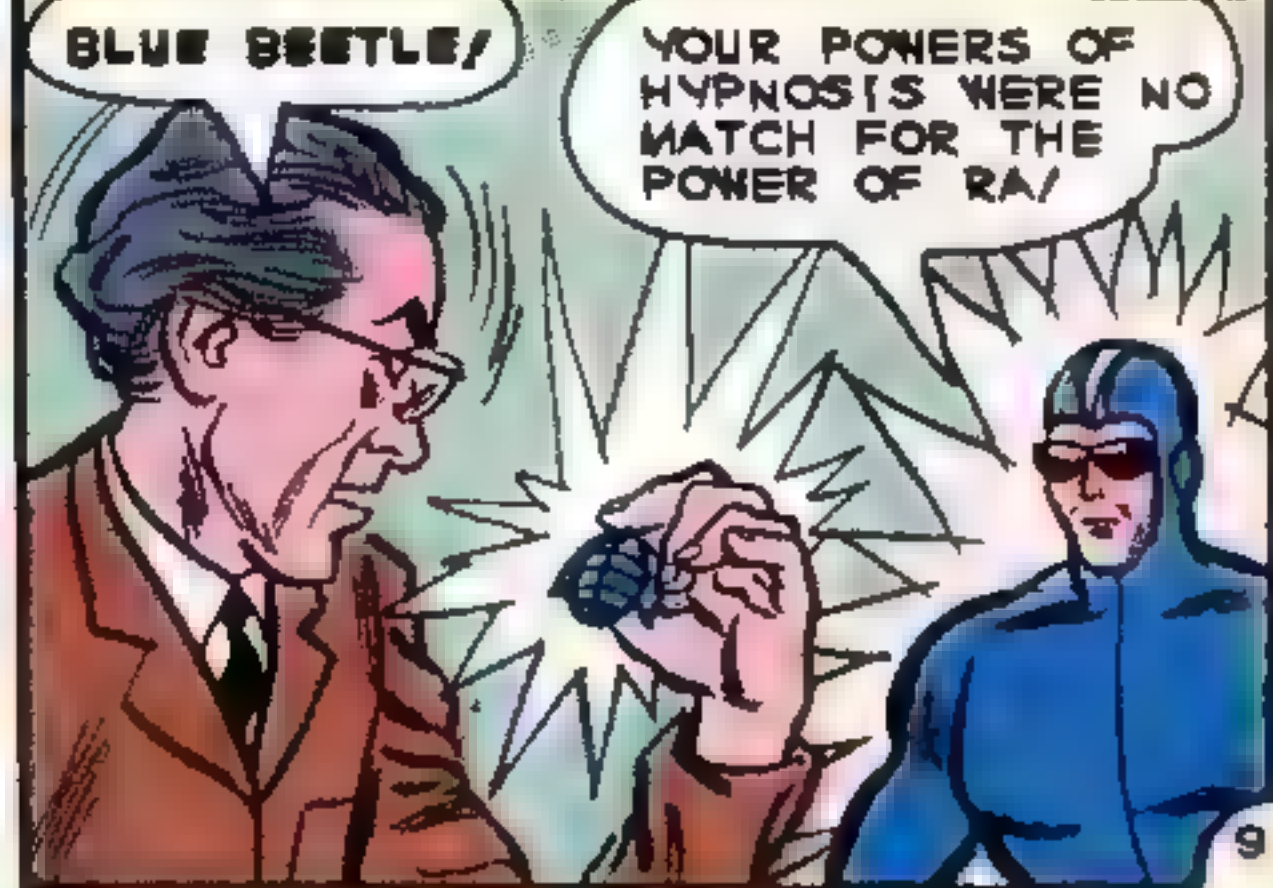
I WILL MODIFY MEN-
TOR, THE MAG-
NIFICENT!



AS CLUGG RANTED, THE SHINING BLUE
SCARAB HAD BEEN SENDING ITS PO-
TENT RAYS TOWARD DR. DAN GARRETT.
...ENDOWING THE ARCHEOLOGIST WITH
THE POWERS OF RA! AND, SUDDENLY,
DR. GARRETT WASN'T THERE! IN HIS
PLACE STOOD THE MIGHTY...

BLUE BEETLE!

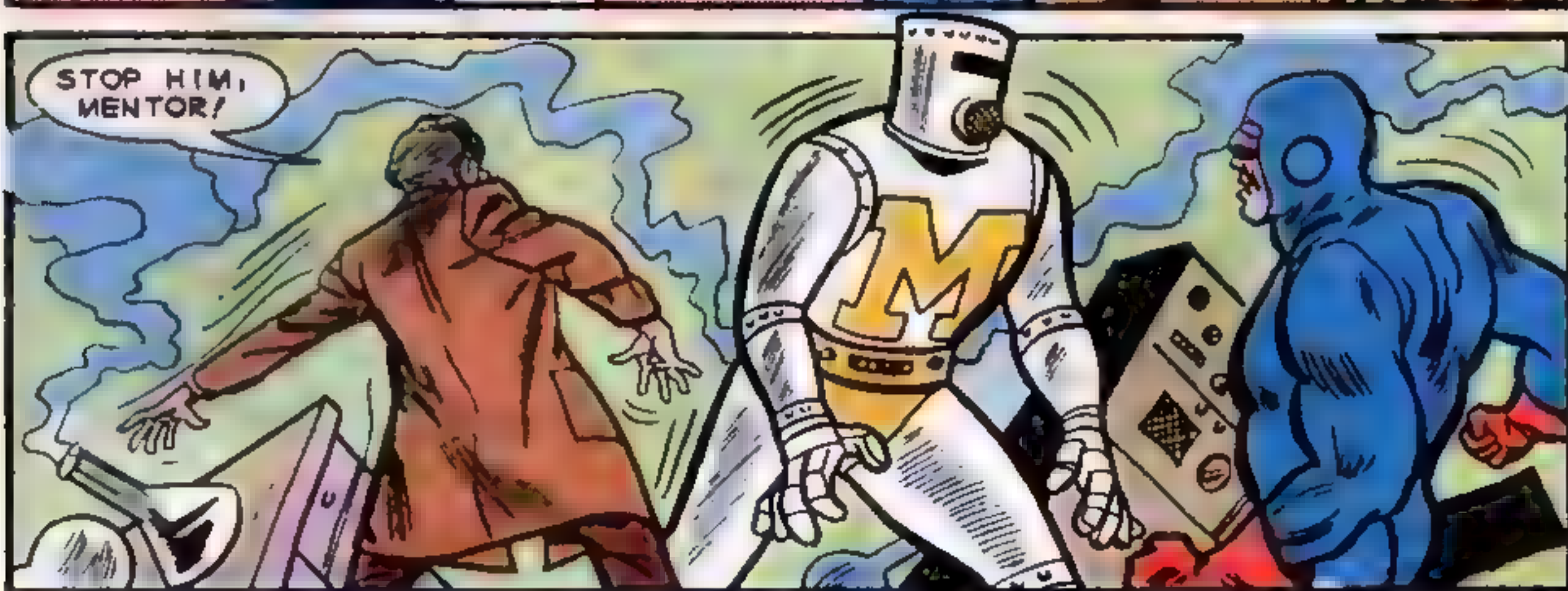
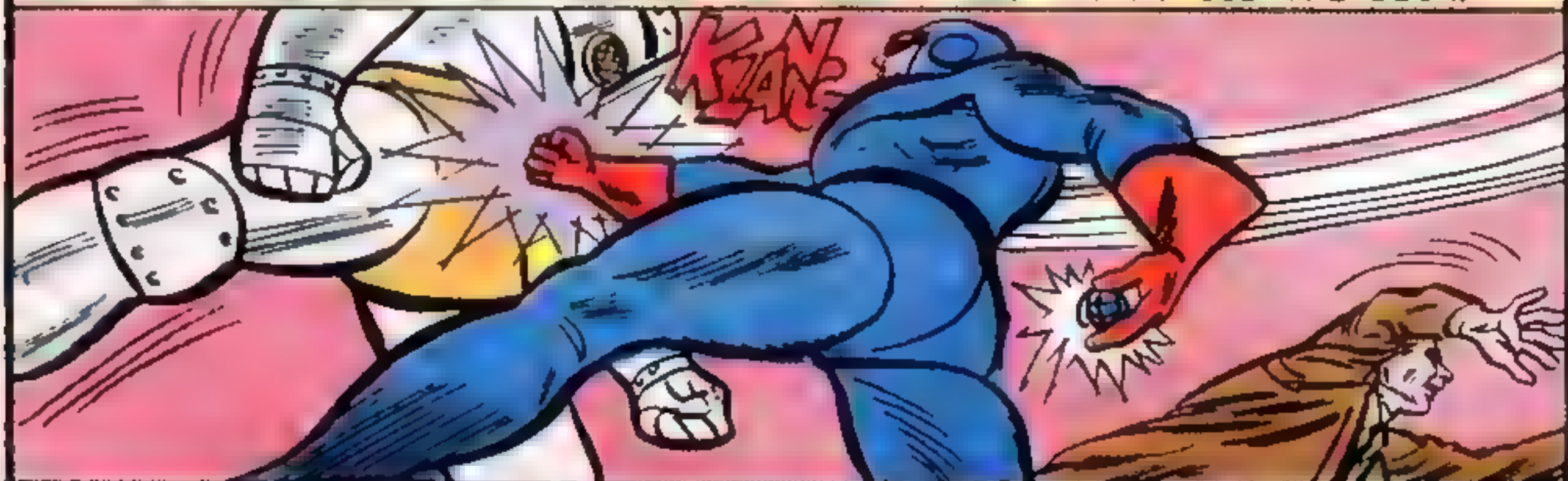
YOUR POWERS OF
HYPNOSIS WERE NO
MATCH FOR THE
POWER OF RA!



THE BLUE BEETLE DODGED MENTOR'S PISTON-LIKE BLOW AND LEAPED FOR PROFESSOR CLUGG WHO STILL HELD THE BLUE SCARAB!

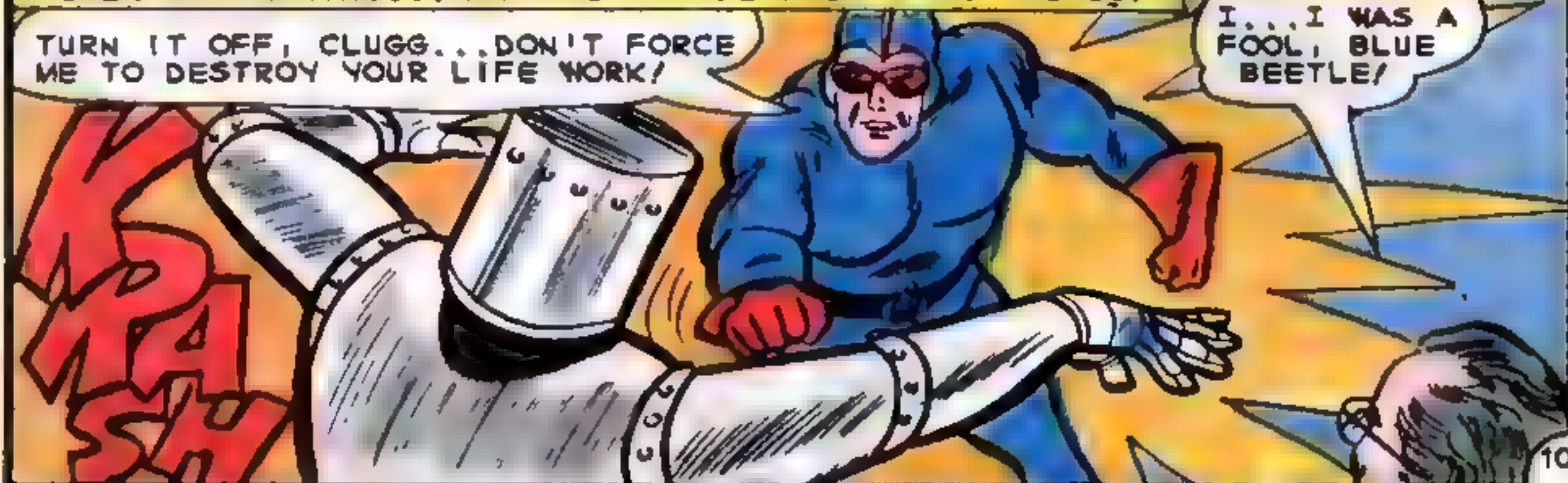


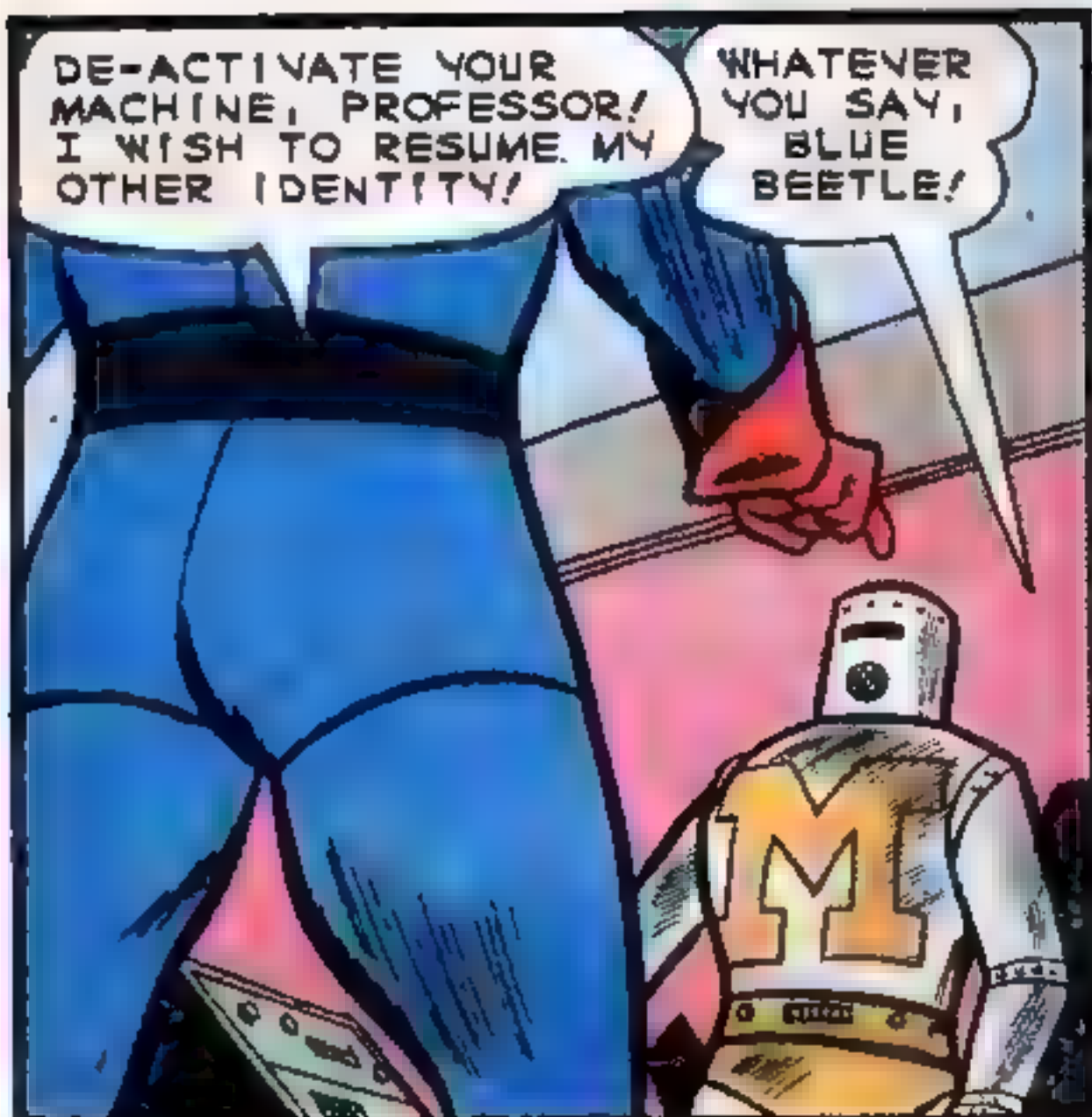
THE BLUE BEETLE ELUDED ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE HUGE MAN-LIKE MACHINE... AND HE STRUCK BACK! BUT MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT WITHSTOOD THE BLOW!



BLUE BEETLE SUMMONED ALL THE POWERS OF THE SACRED SCARAB AND HURLED MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT AWAY FROM HIM! BUT WITHOUT THE SCARAB, HIS POWER WAS WANING...AND THE BATTLE HAD TO BE HALTED!

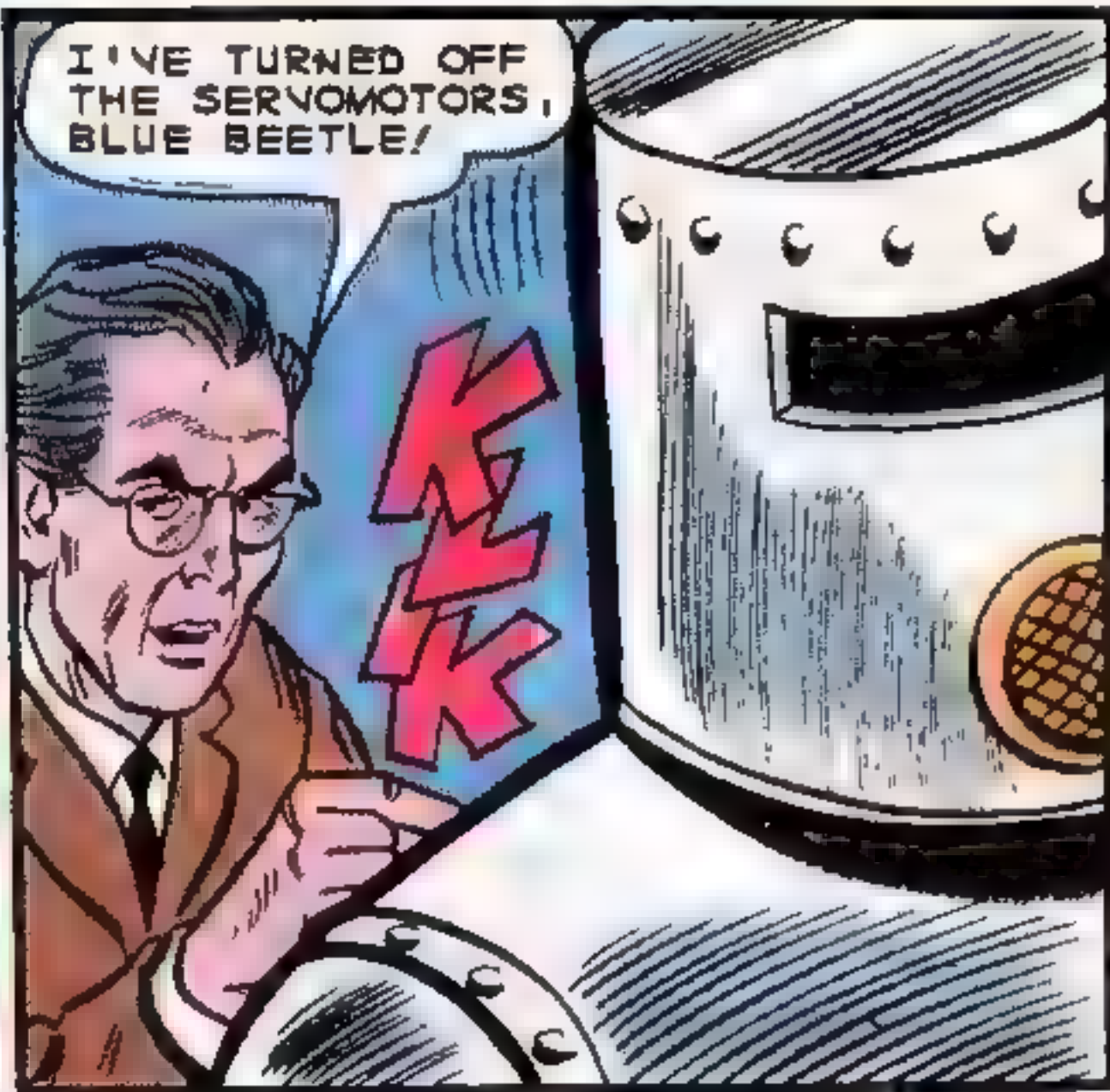
TURN IT OFF, CLUGG...DON'T FORCE ME TO DESTROY YOUR LIFE WORK!





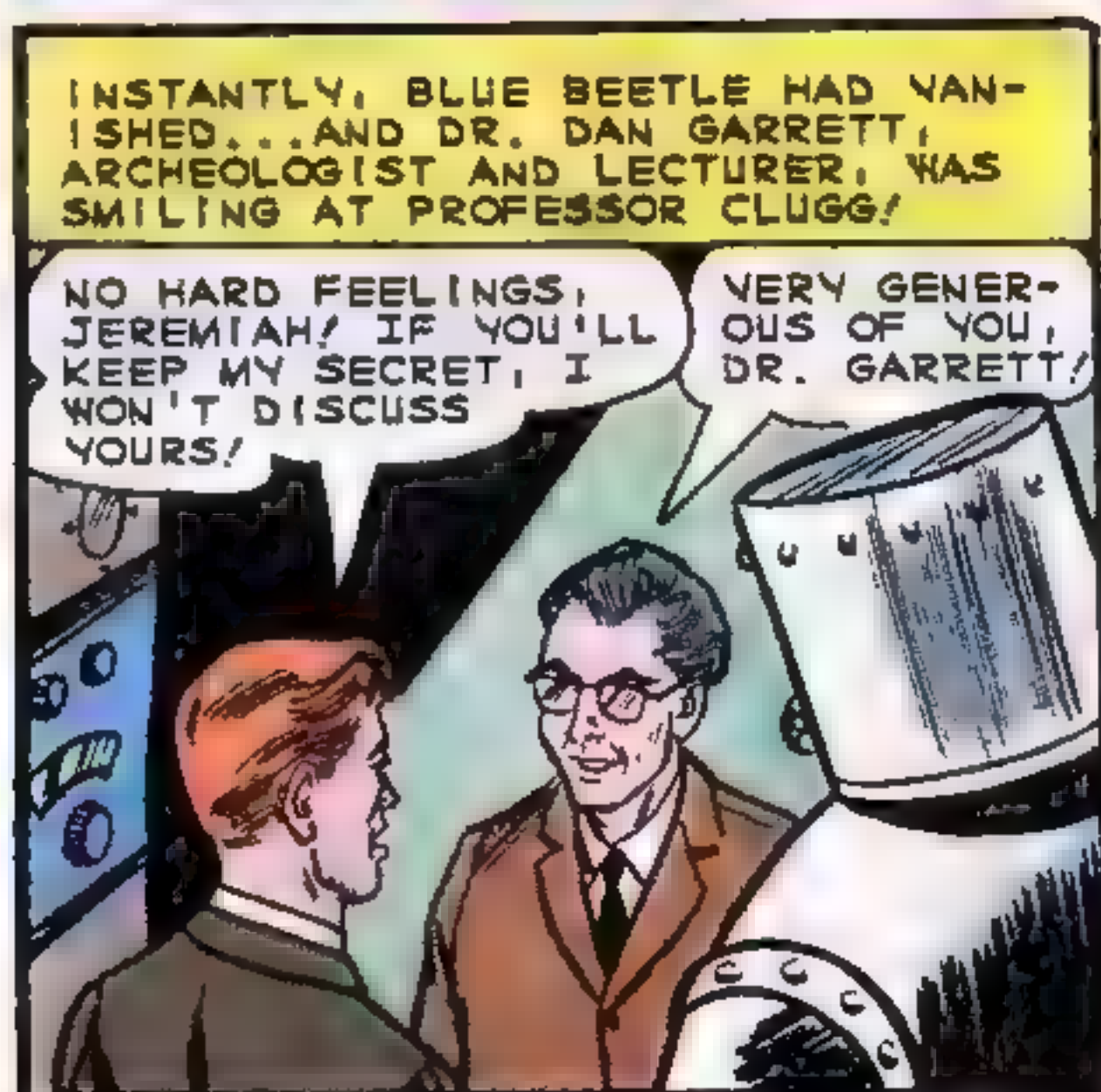
DE-ACTIVATE YOUR MACHINE, PROFESSOR! I WISH TO RESUME MY OTHER IDENTITY!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BLUE BEETLE!



I'VE TURNED OFF THE SERVOMOTORS, BLUE BEETLE!

K
K
K



INSTANTLY, BLUE BEETLE HAD VANISHED...AND DR. DAN GARRETT, ARCHEOLOGIST AND LECTURER, WAS SMILING AT PROFESSOR CLUGG!

NO HARD FEELINGS, JEREMIAH! IF YOU'LL KEEP MY SECRET, I WON'T DISCUSS YOURS!

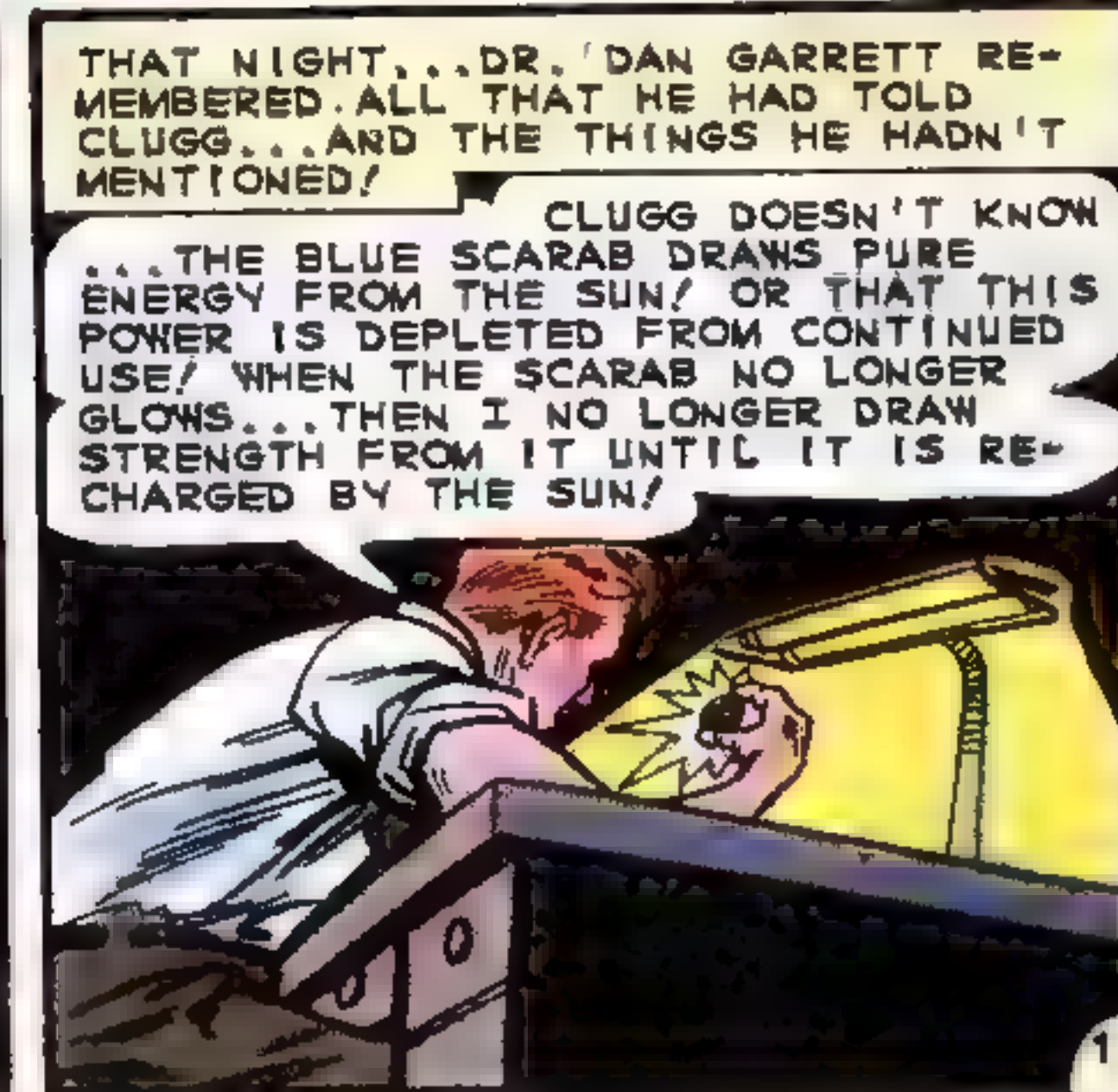
VERY GENEROUS OF YOU, DR. GARRETT!



AND VERY FOOLISH INDEED! WHEN I FINISH IMPROVING MENTOR...



...THE BLUE BEETLE WON'T BE A MATCH FOR HIM!

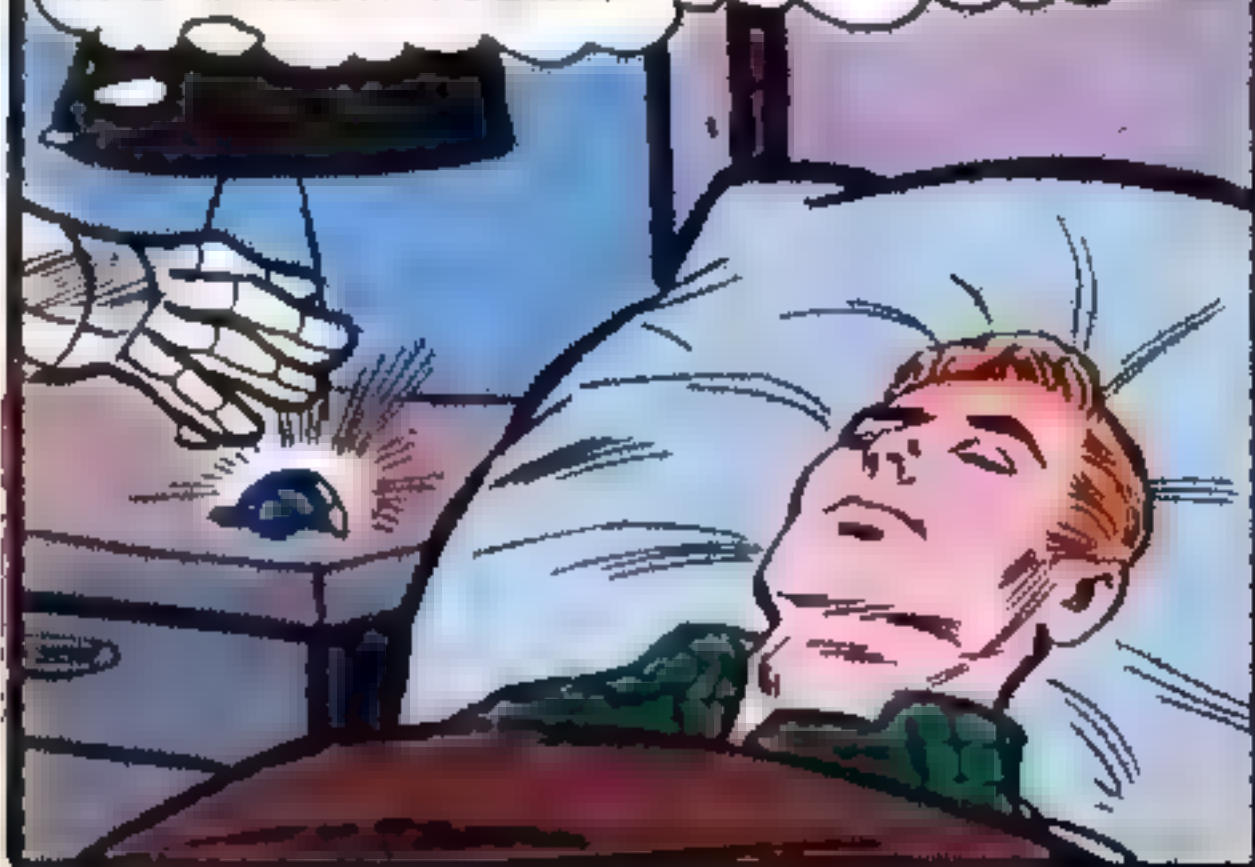


THAT NIGHT...DR. DAN GARRETT REMEMBERED ALL THAT HE HAD TOLD CLUGG...AND THE THINGS HE HADN'T MENTIONED!

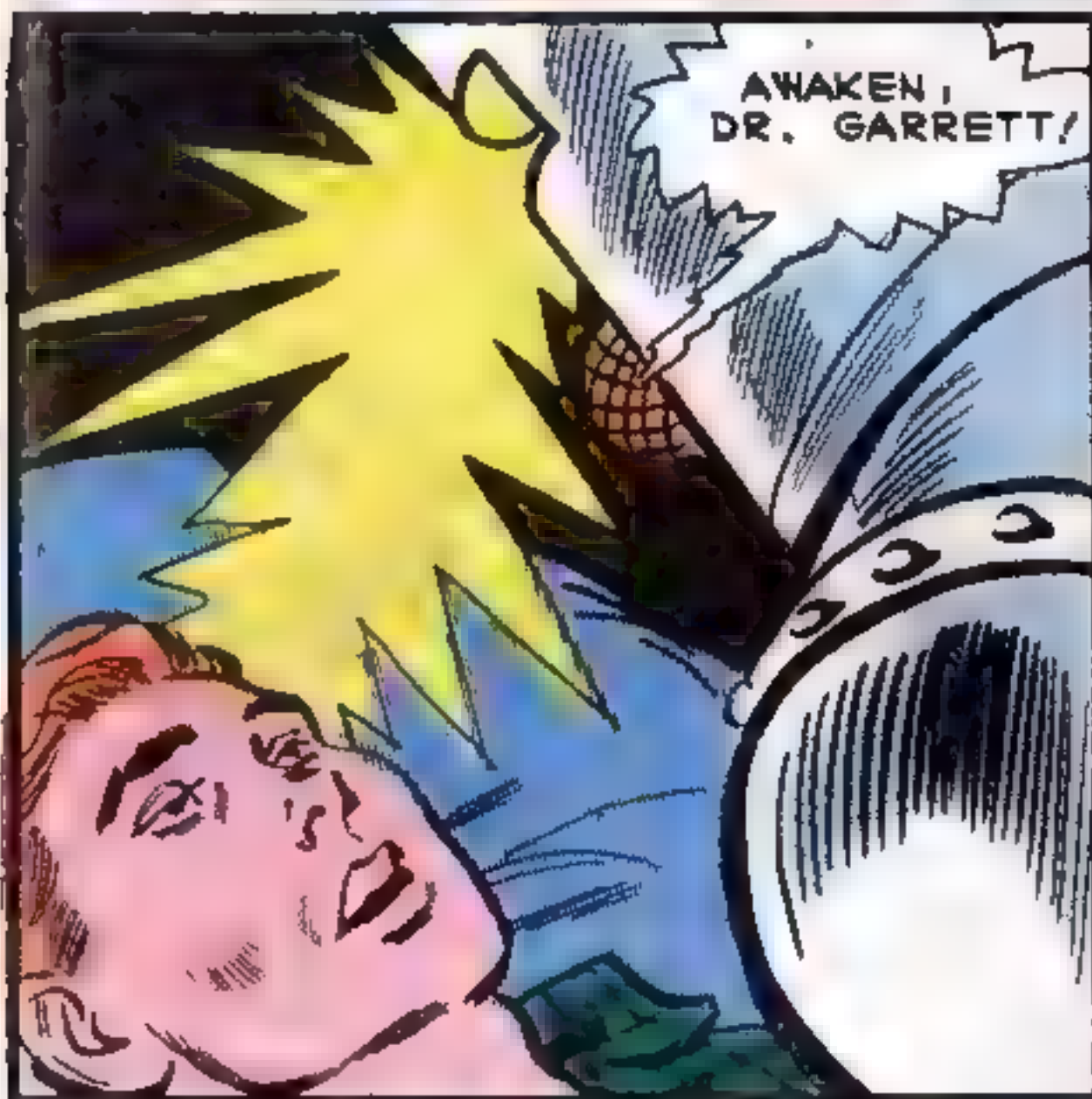
CLUGG DOESN'T KNOW...THE BLUE SCARAB DRAWS PURE ENERGY FROM THE SUN! OR THAT THIS POWER IS DEPLETED FROM CONTINUED USE! WHEN THE SCARAB NO LONGER GLOWS...THEN I NO LONGER DRAW STRENGTH FROM IT UNTIL IT IS RE-CHARGED BY THE SUN!

SLEEP CLAIMED DR. GARRETT...AND AS HE SLEPT, PROFESSOR CLUGG'S ROBOT CAME TO CALL...

I HAVE ASSUMED CONTROL INSIDE THE SERVO-AND-COMPUTER AREA! I AM THE ROBOT...I AM MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT!

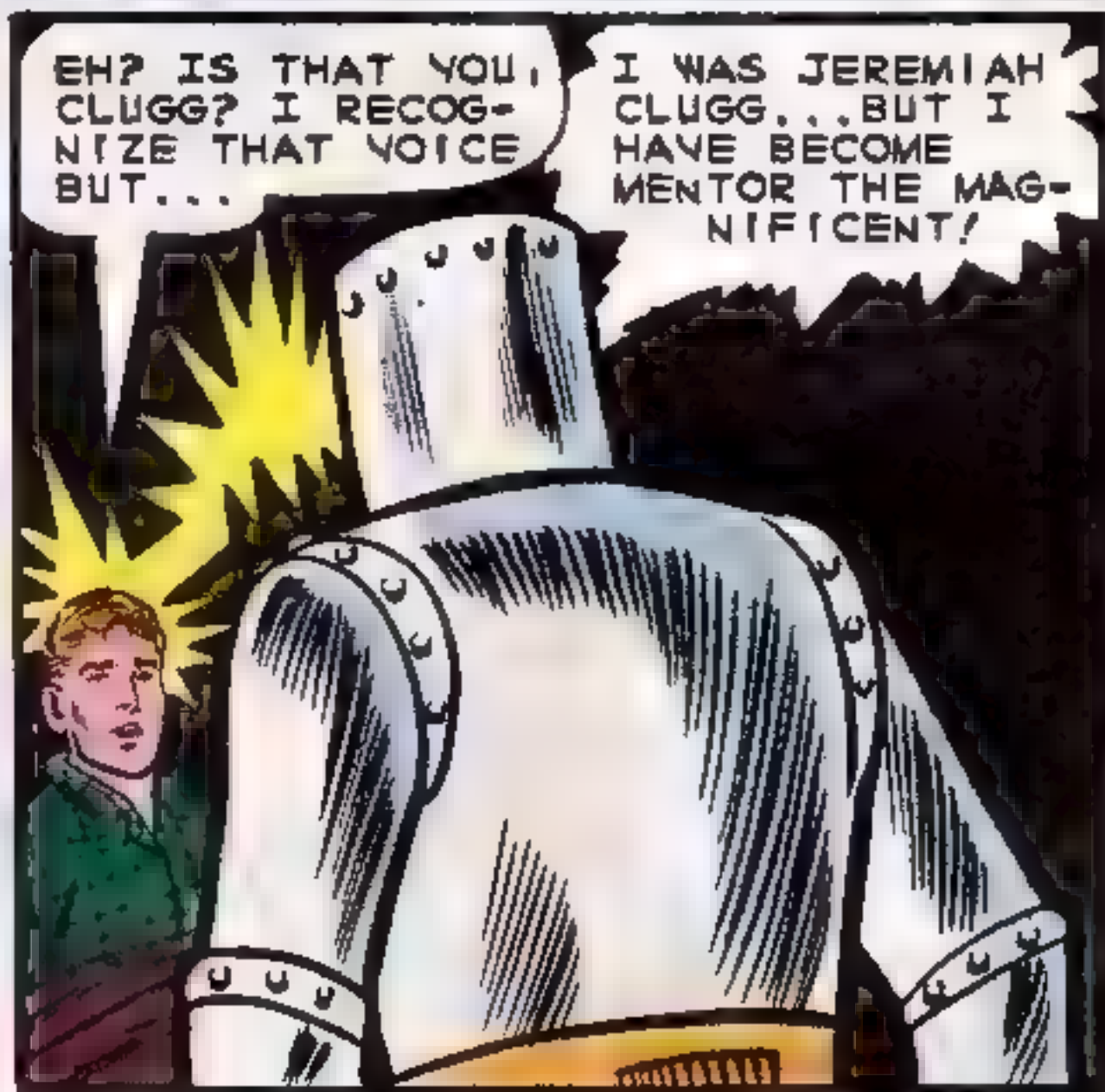


AWAKEN, DR. GARRETT!

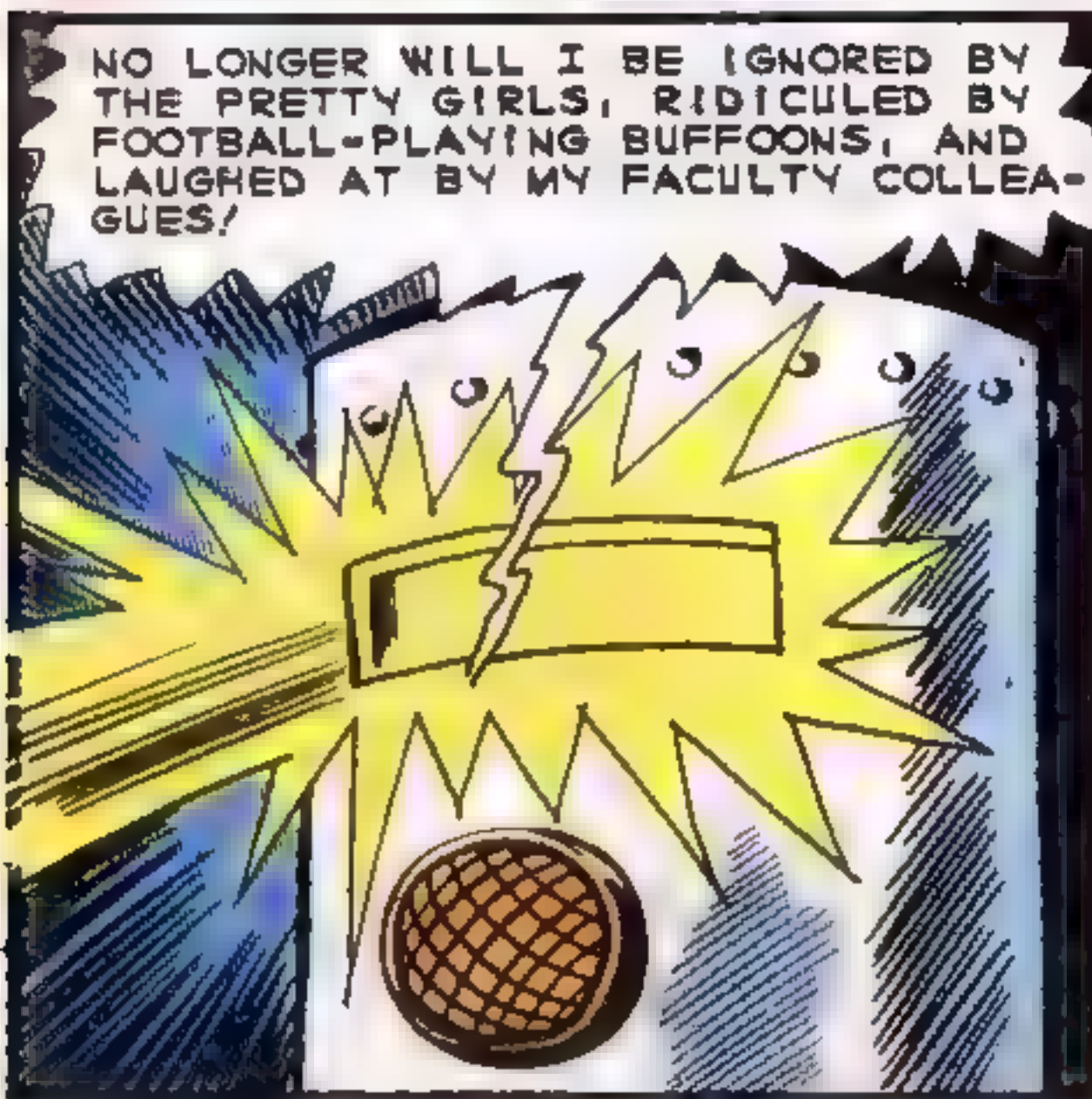


EH? IS THAT YOU, CLUGG? I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE BUT...

I WAS JEREMIAH CLUGG...BUT I HAVE BECOME MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT!



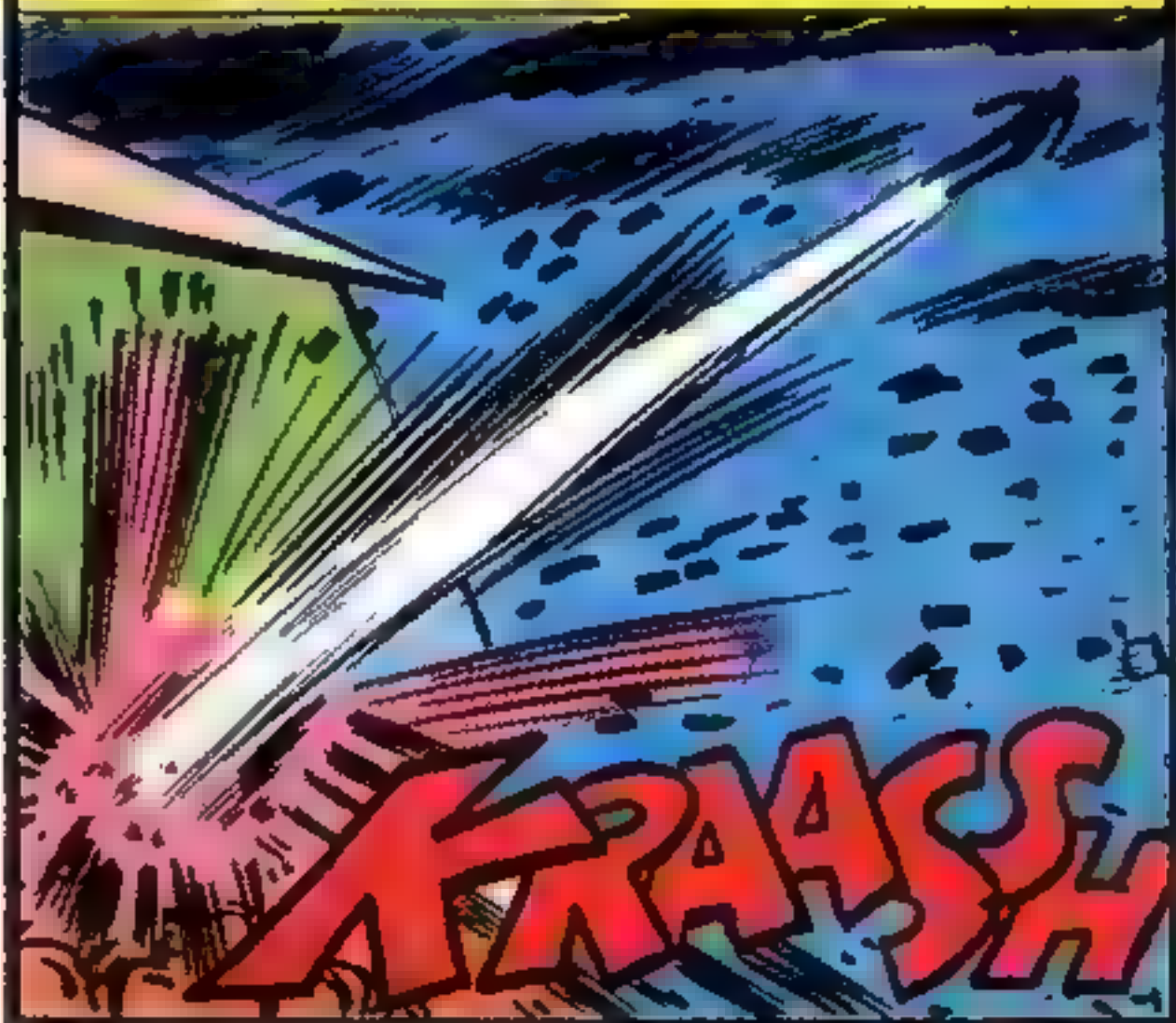
NO LONGER WILL I BE IGNORED BY THE PRETTY GIRLS, RIDICULED BY FOOTBALL-PLAYING BUFFOONS, AND LAUGHED AT BY MY FACULTY COLLEAGUES!



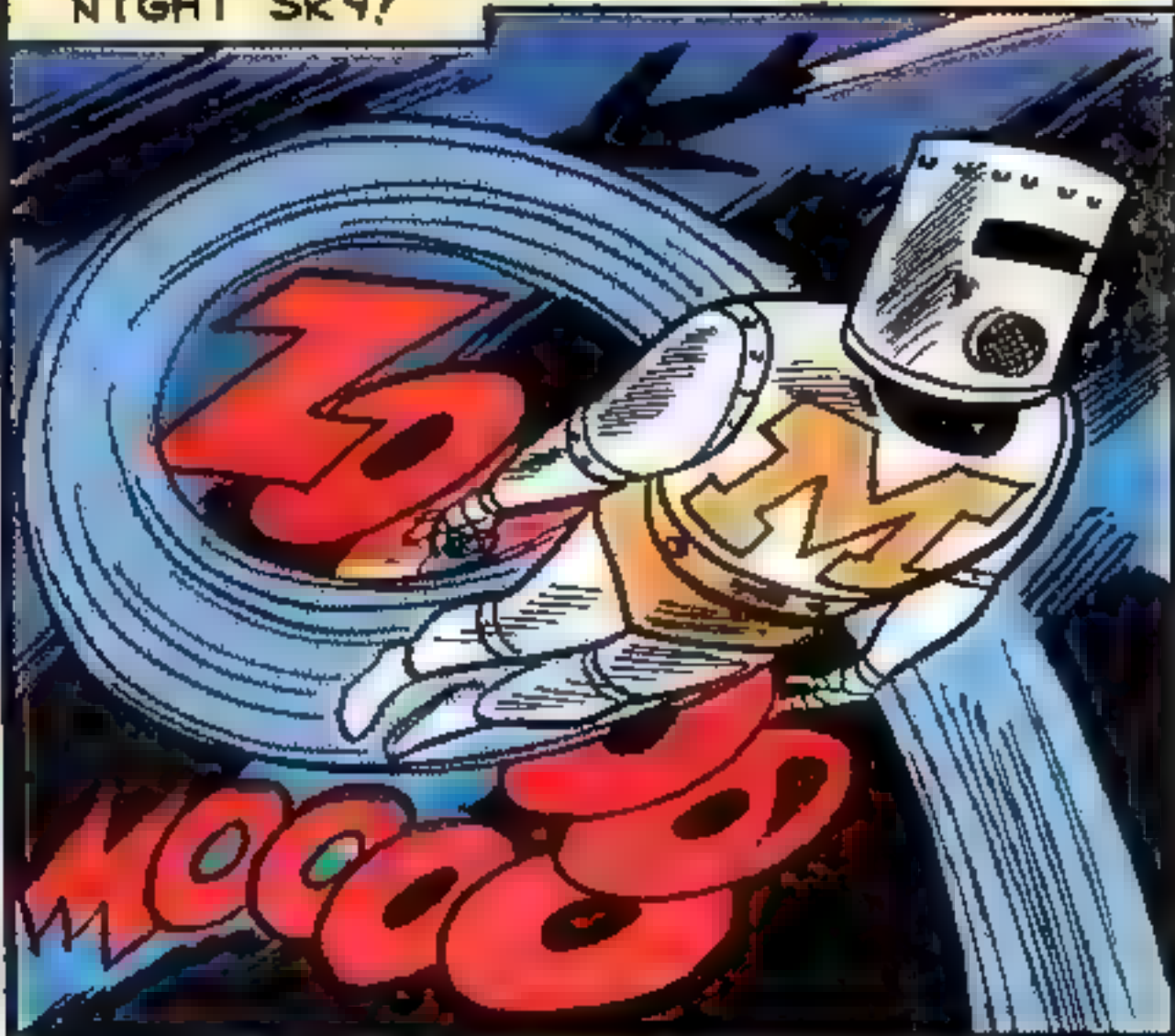
I WILL PROVE THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BE PERFORMED! AS A TEST, I WILL BRING ONE GOLDEN INGOT FROM FORT KNOX, GARRETT! THEY BOAST THAT AN ARMY OF MEN COULD NOT PENETRATE THEIR CRIME-PROOF VAULTS...BUT NO MAN-MADE BARRIER CAN STOP ME NOW!



SUDDENLY, WITH SHATTERING POWER, MENTOR SMASHED THROUGH THE THICK BRICK WALLS...



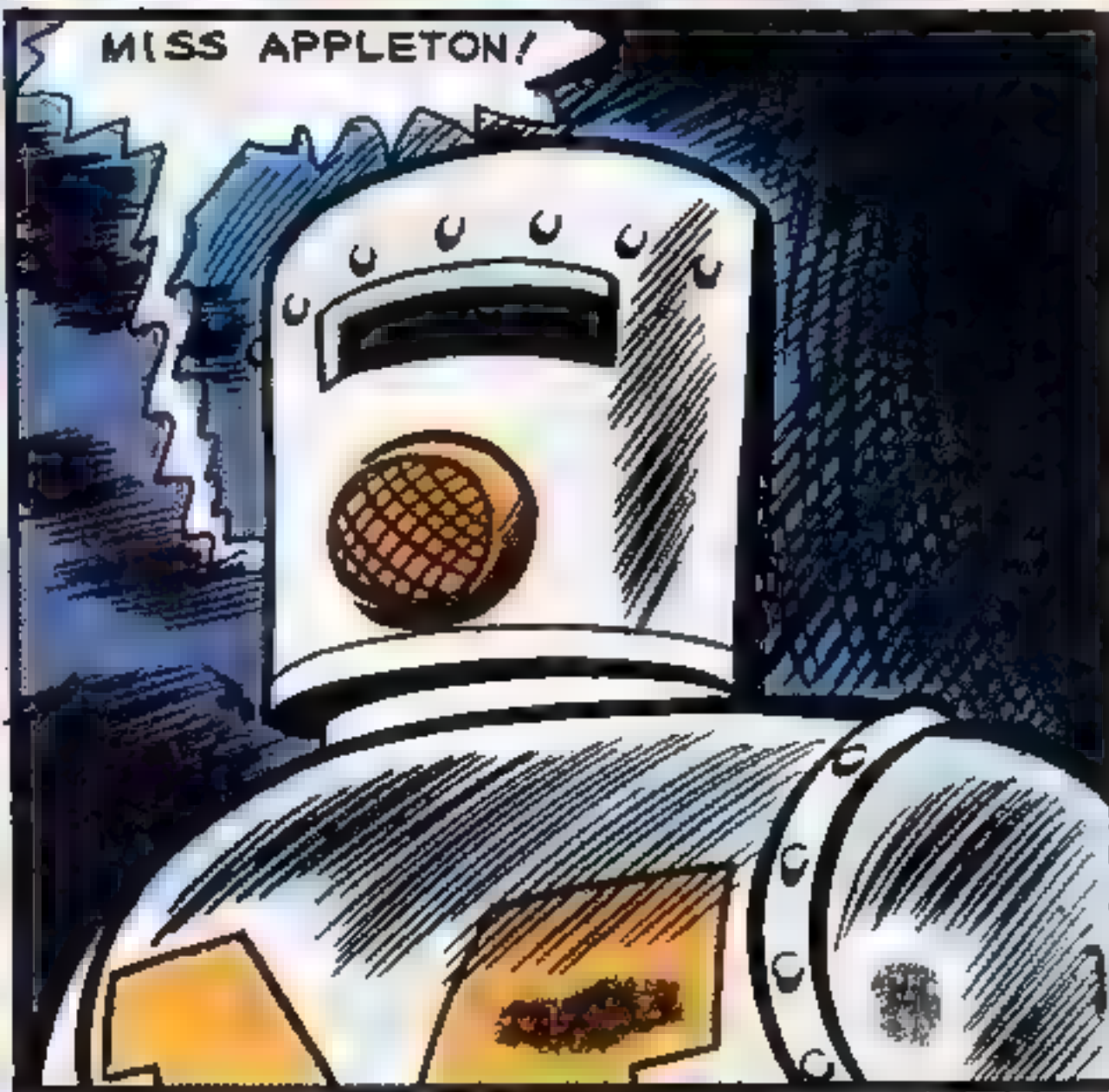
AND AT SUPERSONIC SPEED, CLUGG'S IMPROVED ROBOT ROCKETED INTO THE NIGHT SKY!



MY ONLY REGRET IS... I CAN'T SHARE MY VICTORIES WITH HER...

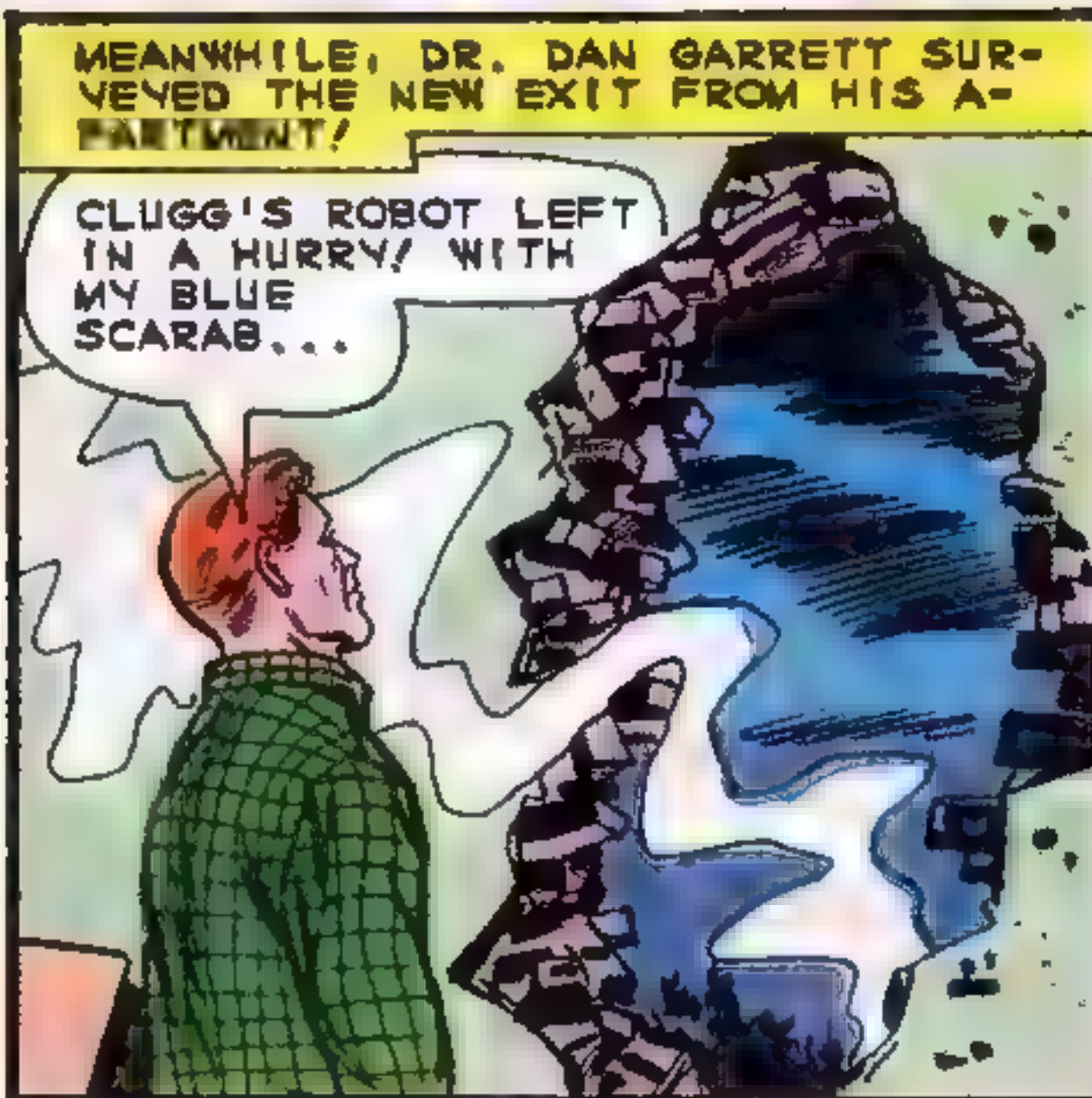


MISS APPLETON!



MEANWHILE, DR. DAN GARRETT SURVEYED THE NEW EXIT FROM HIS APARTMENT!

CLUGG'S ROBOT LEFT IN A HURRY! WITH MY BLUE SCARAB...



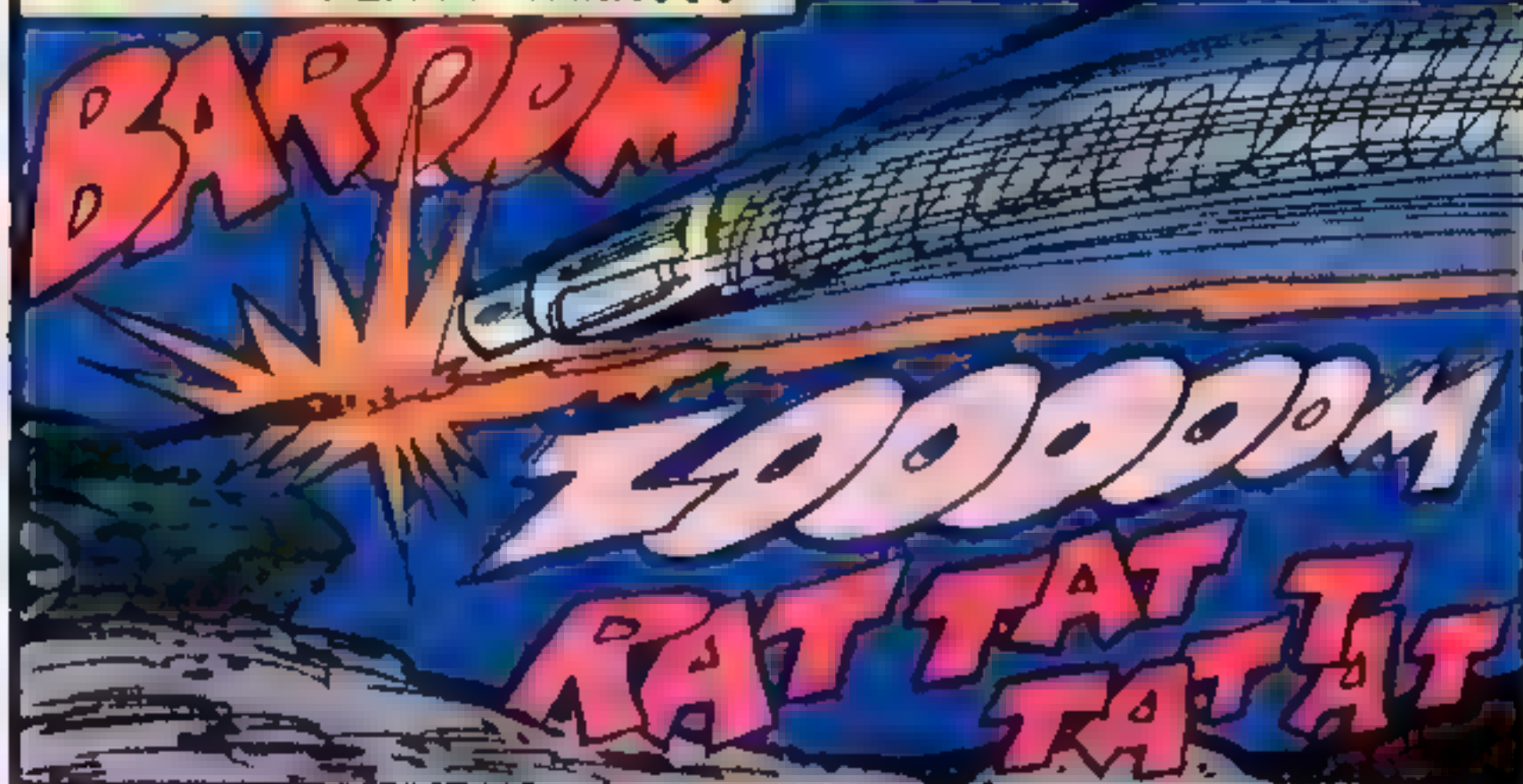
...HE THINKS! THE ONE HE TOOK IS AN ORDINARY EGYPTIAN ARTIFACT WHICH I PAINTED WITH A PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT! I WAS AFRAID CLUGG MIGHT COME FOR THAT WHILE I WAS SLEEPING!



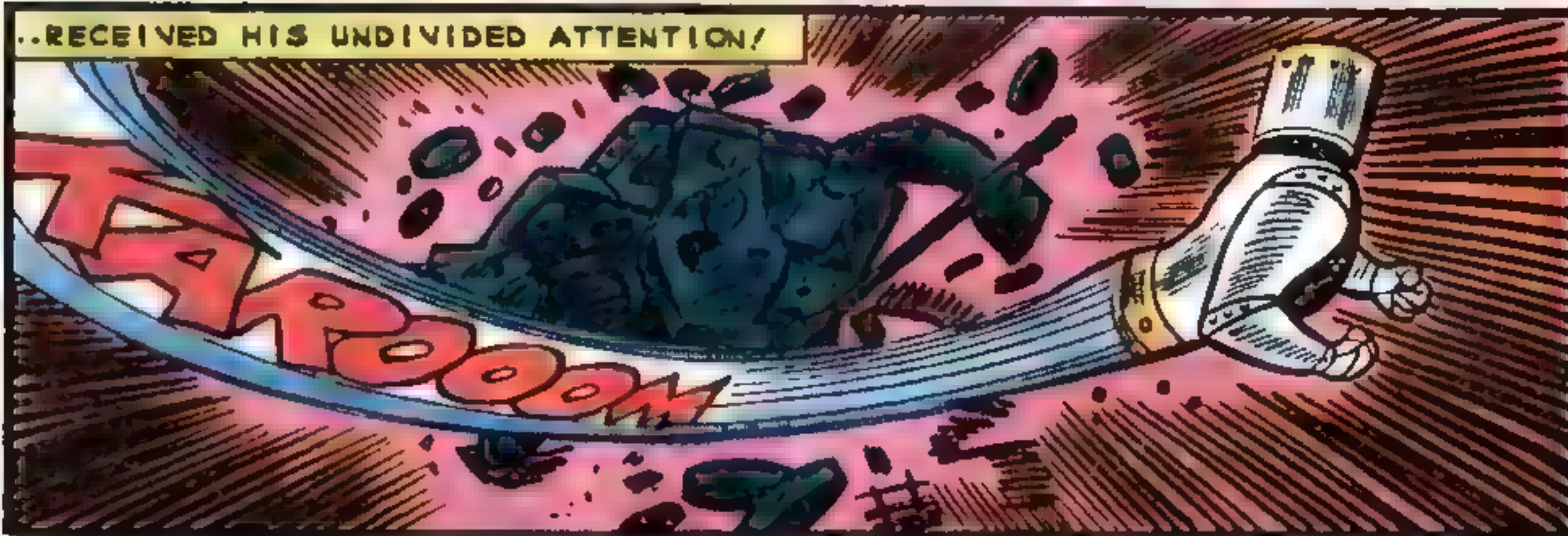
I COULD GO AFTER HIM...BUT I'D BE TOO LATE! HE'S AT FORT KNOX BY NOW!



YES, MENTOR HAD ALREADY MADE THE SCENE! A MACHINE GUN WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED BUT THE MASSIVE HEAVY TANK...



...RECEIVED HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION!

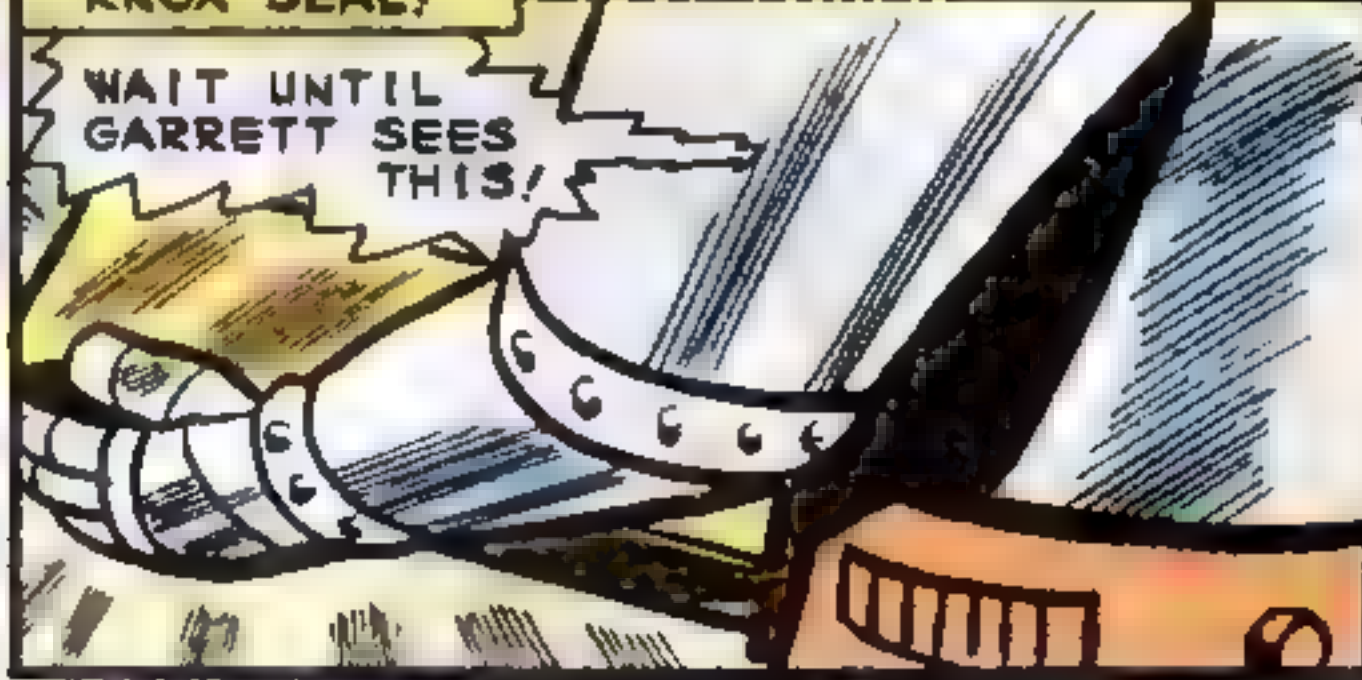


THEN...GAMMA RAYS SEARED THE HARDENED STEEL DOORS...MELTING IT IN A FEW SHORT SECONDS!

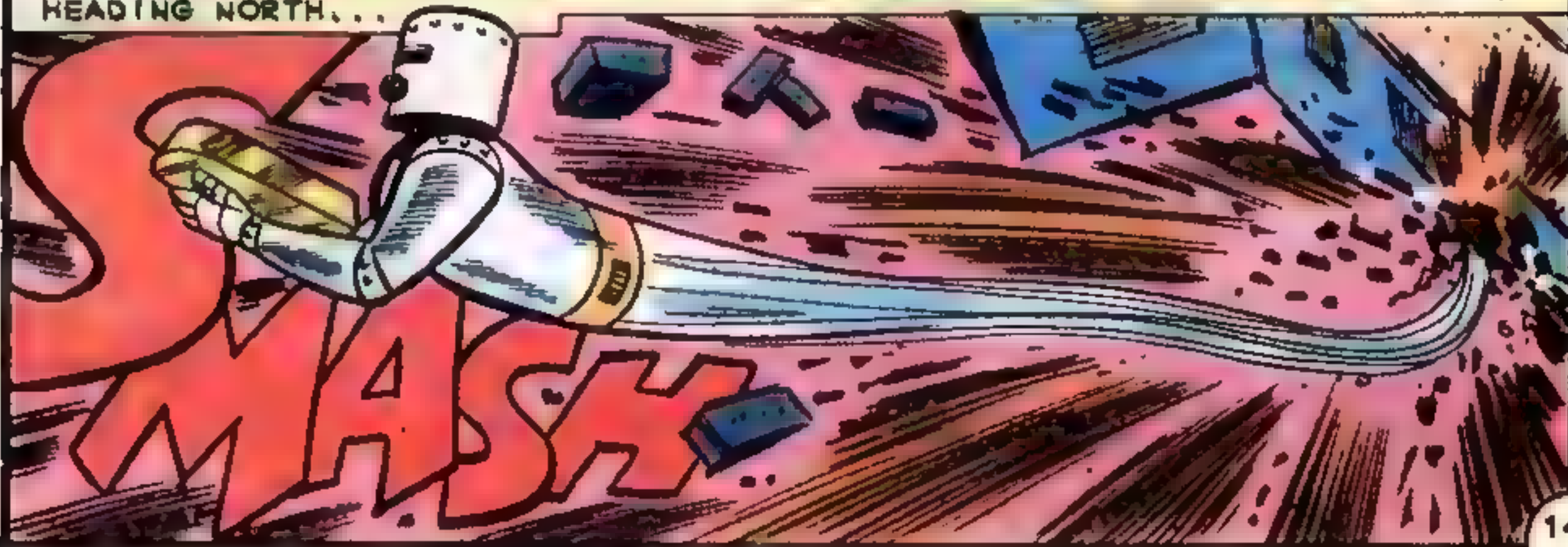


AND THERE MENTOR SELECTED ONE GOLDEN INGOT IMPRINTED WITH THE FORT KNOX SEAL!

WAIT UNTIL GARRETT SEES THIS!

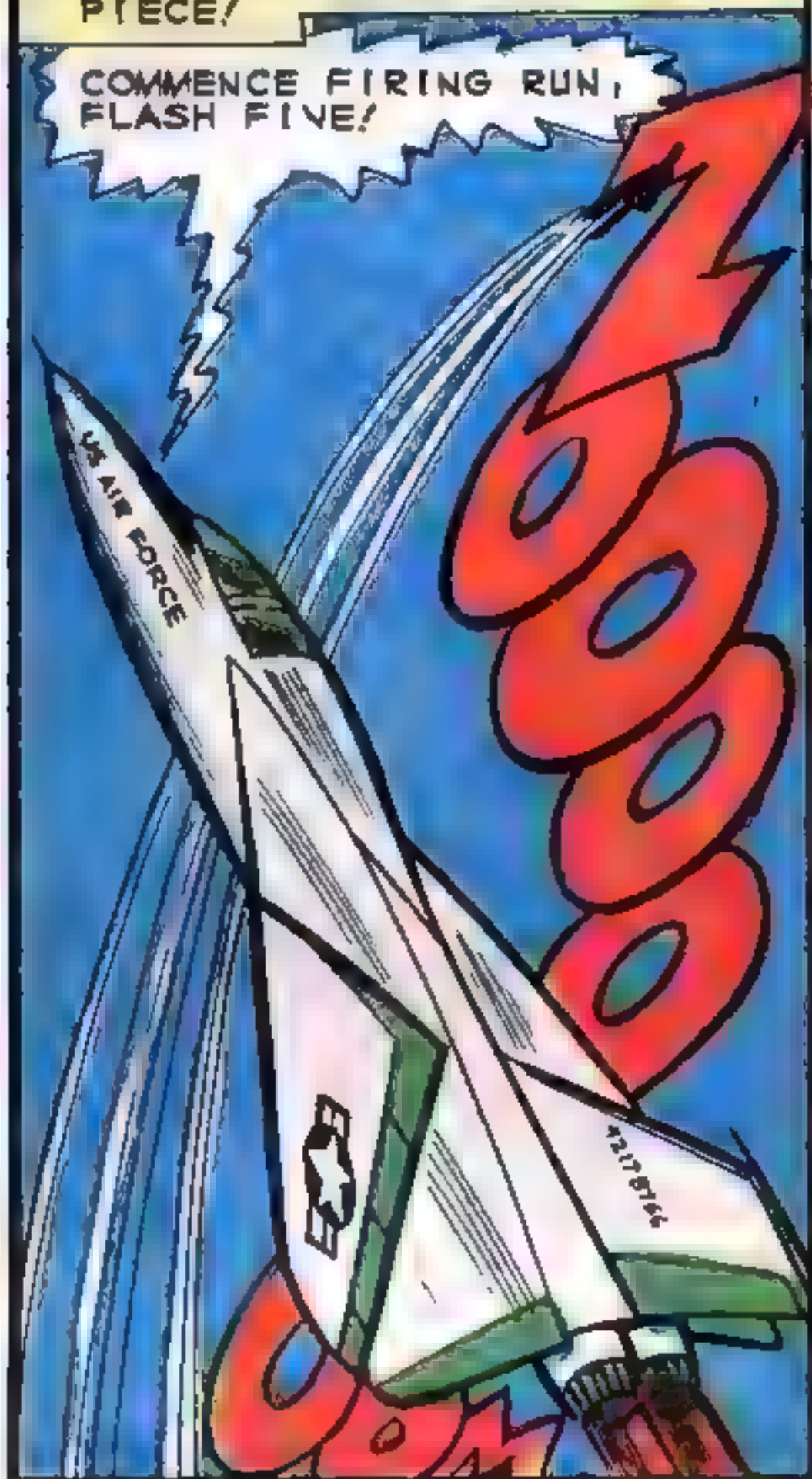


ACTIVATING ALL JETS, MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT TORE THROUGH THE WALLS, HEADING NORTH...

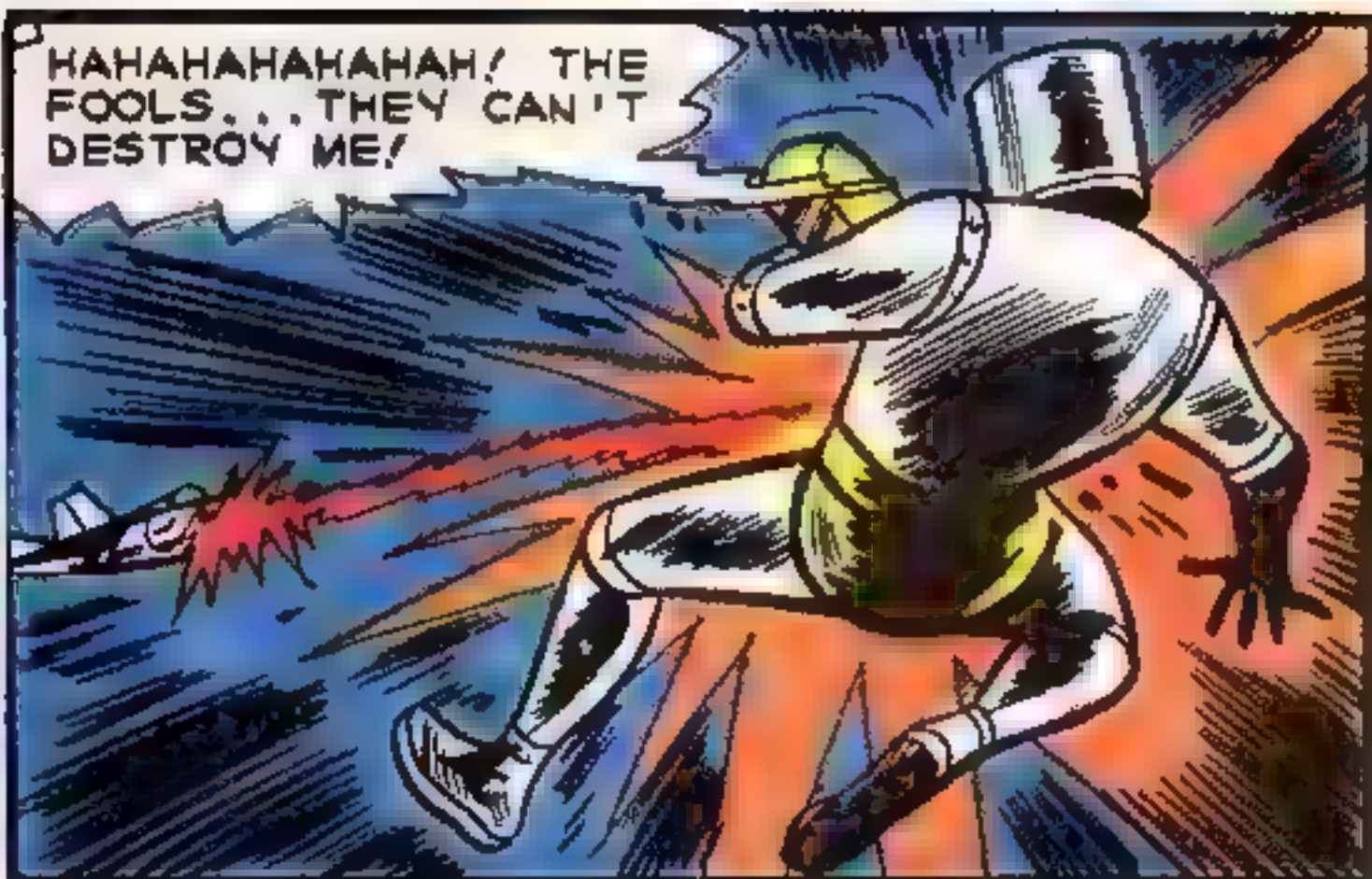


BUT THE ALARM HAD BEEN SOUNDED AND INTERCEPTOR COMMAND HURLED SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT INTO THE NIGHT SKIES! ONE 2300 MPH JET FIGHTER STREAKED AFTER JEREMIAH CLUGG'S MASTER-PIECE!

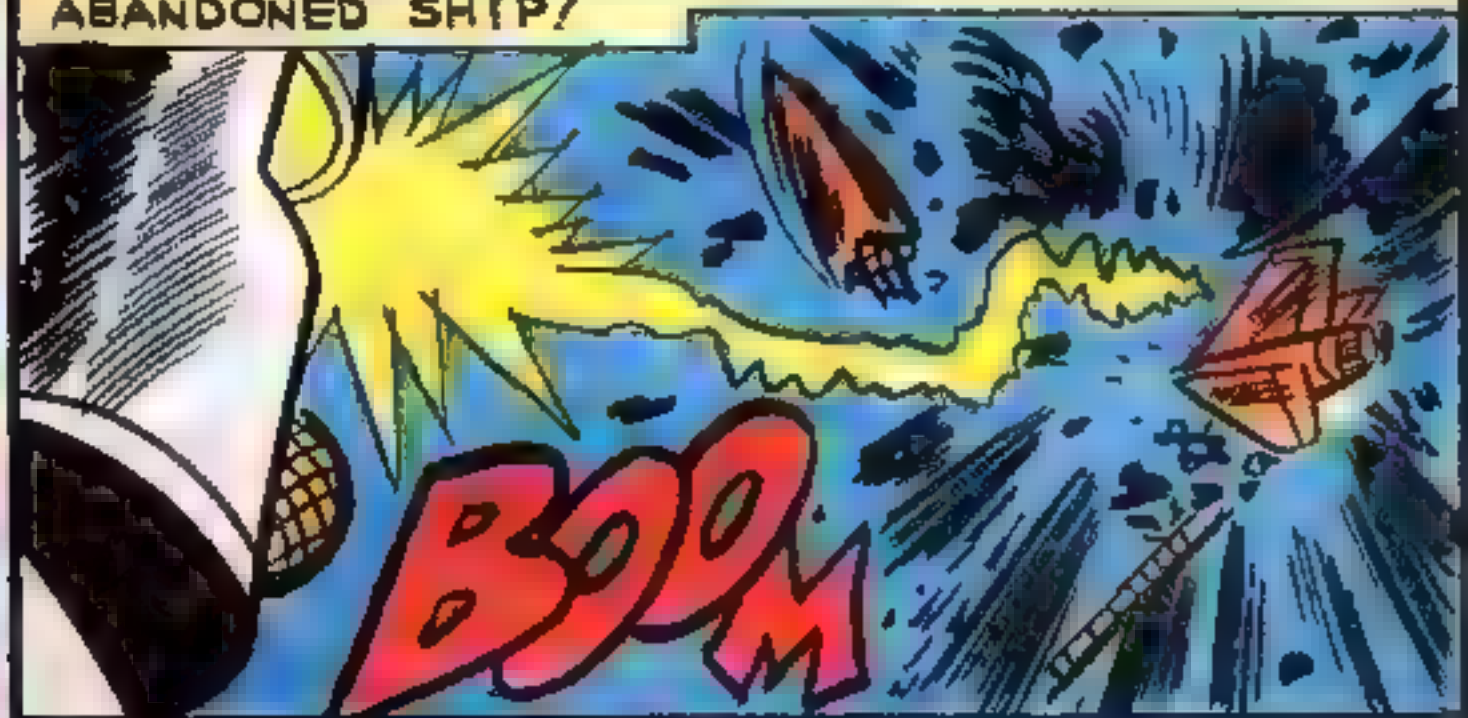
COMMENCE FIRING RUN, FLASH FIVE!



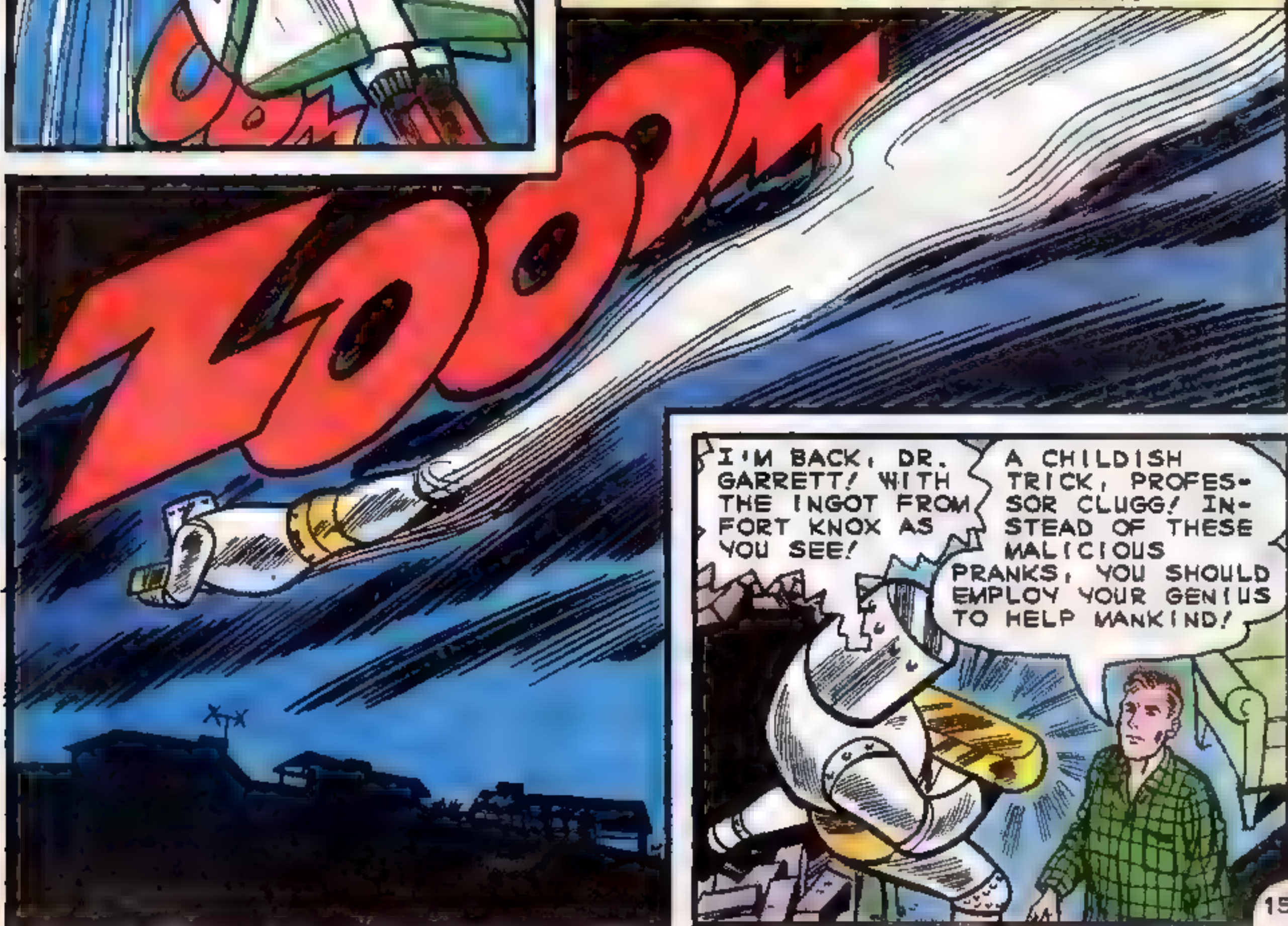
HAHAHAHAHAHA! THE FOOLS...THEY CAN'T DESTROY ME!



MENTOR'S! GAMMA RAYS LOCKED IN ON THE DOOMED AIRCRAFT...AND THE PILOT ABANDONED SHIP!

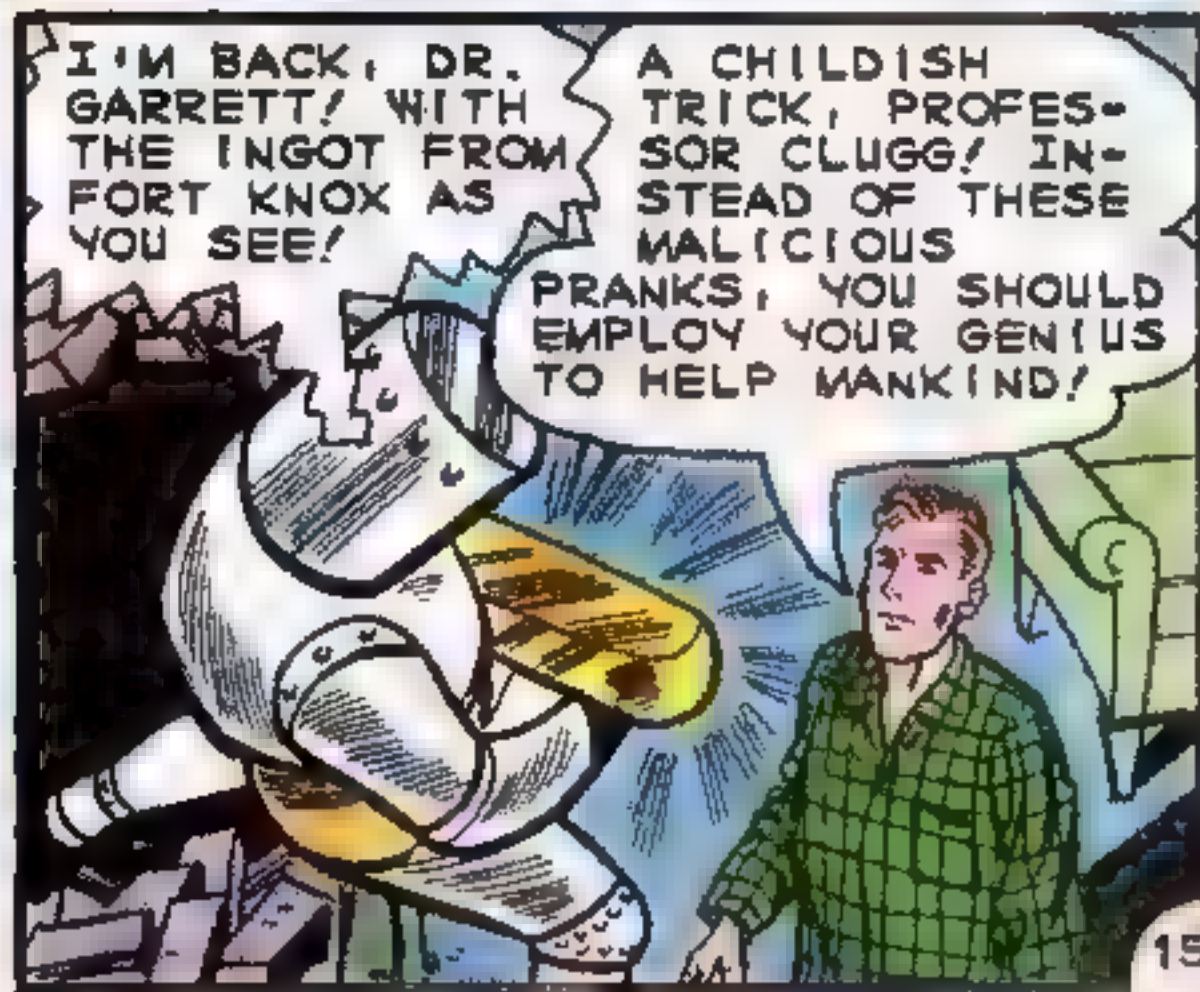


THIS NEW FORCE...THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE HAD MADE GOOD ITS BOAST!

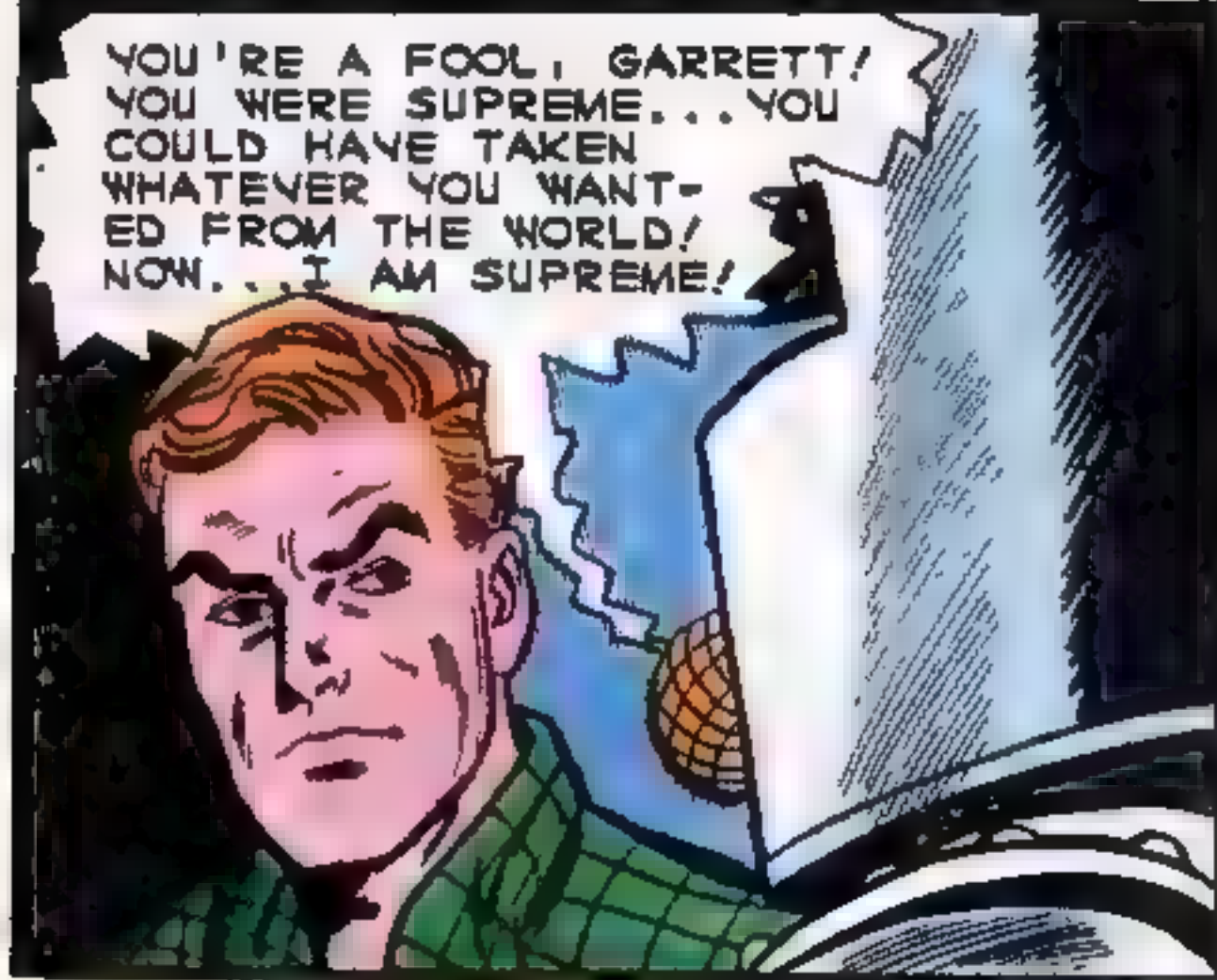


I'M BACK, DR. GARRETT! WITH THE INGOT FROM FORT KNOX AS YOU SEE!

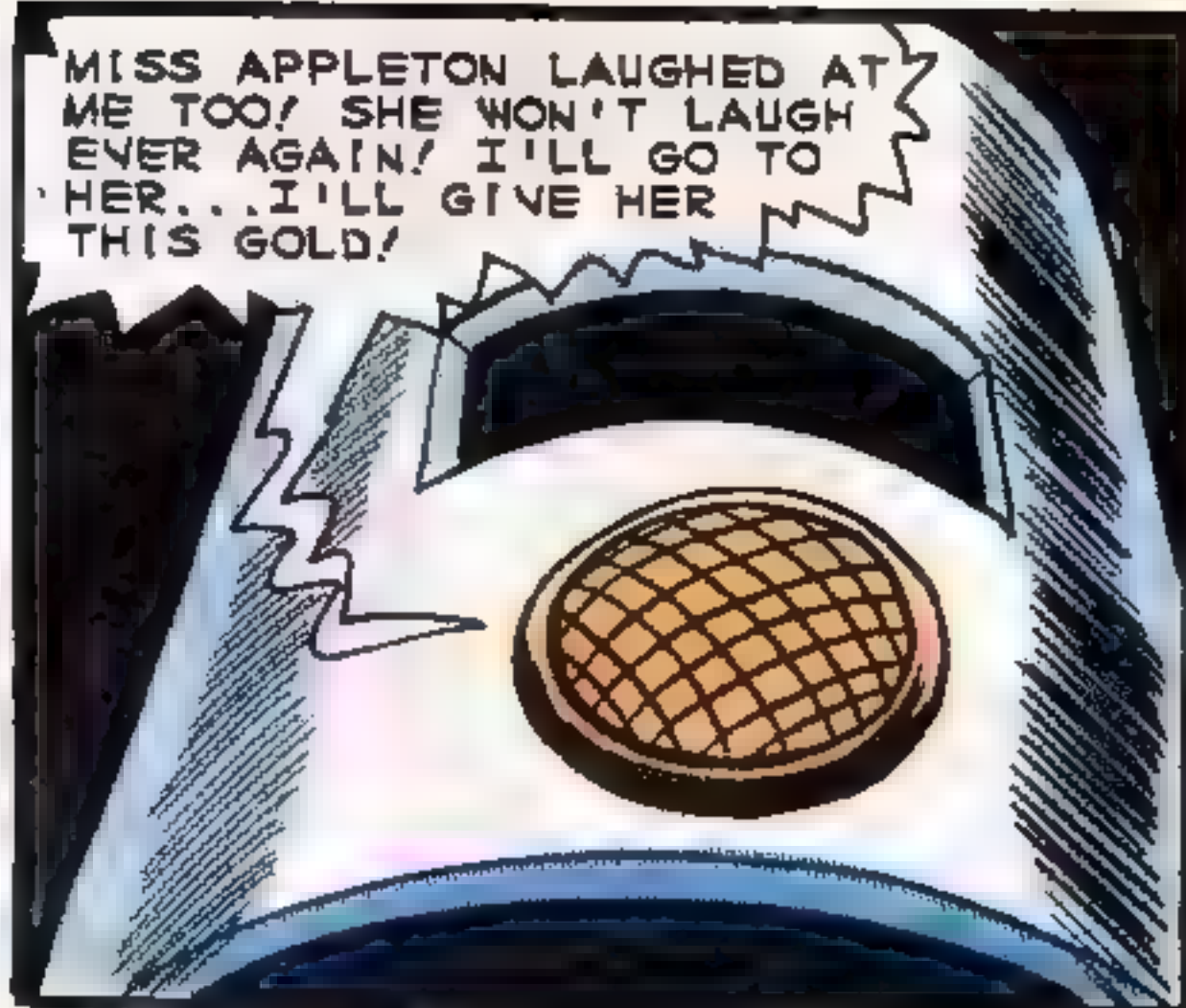
A CHILDISH TRICK, PROFESSOR CLUGG! INSTEAD OF THESE MALICIOUS PRANKS, YOU SHOULD EMPLOY YOUR GENIUS TO HELP MANKIND!



YOU'RE A FOOL, GARRETT!
YOU WERE SUPREME... YOU
COULD HAVE TAKEN
WHATEVER YOU WANT-
ED FROM THE WORLD!
NOW... I AM SUPREME!



MISS APPLETON LAUGHED AT
ME TOO! SHE WON'T LAUGH
EVER AGAIN! I'LL GO TO
HER... I'LL GIVE HER
THIS GOLD!



MISS APPLETON WAS NOT ASLEEP, LATE AS IT WAS!



SHE WAS GRIEVING FOR PRO-
FESSOR JEREMIAH CLUGG...
AND THEN SHE GLIMPSED WHAT
SHE BELIEVED TO BE A
SHOOTING STAR... AND SHE
MADE A WISH!

IF ONLY JEREMIAH
WERE HERE...



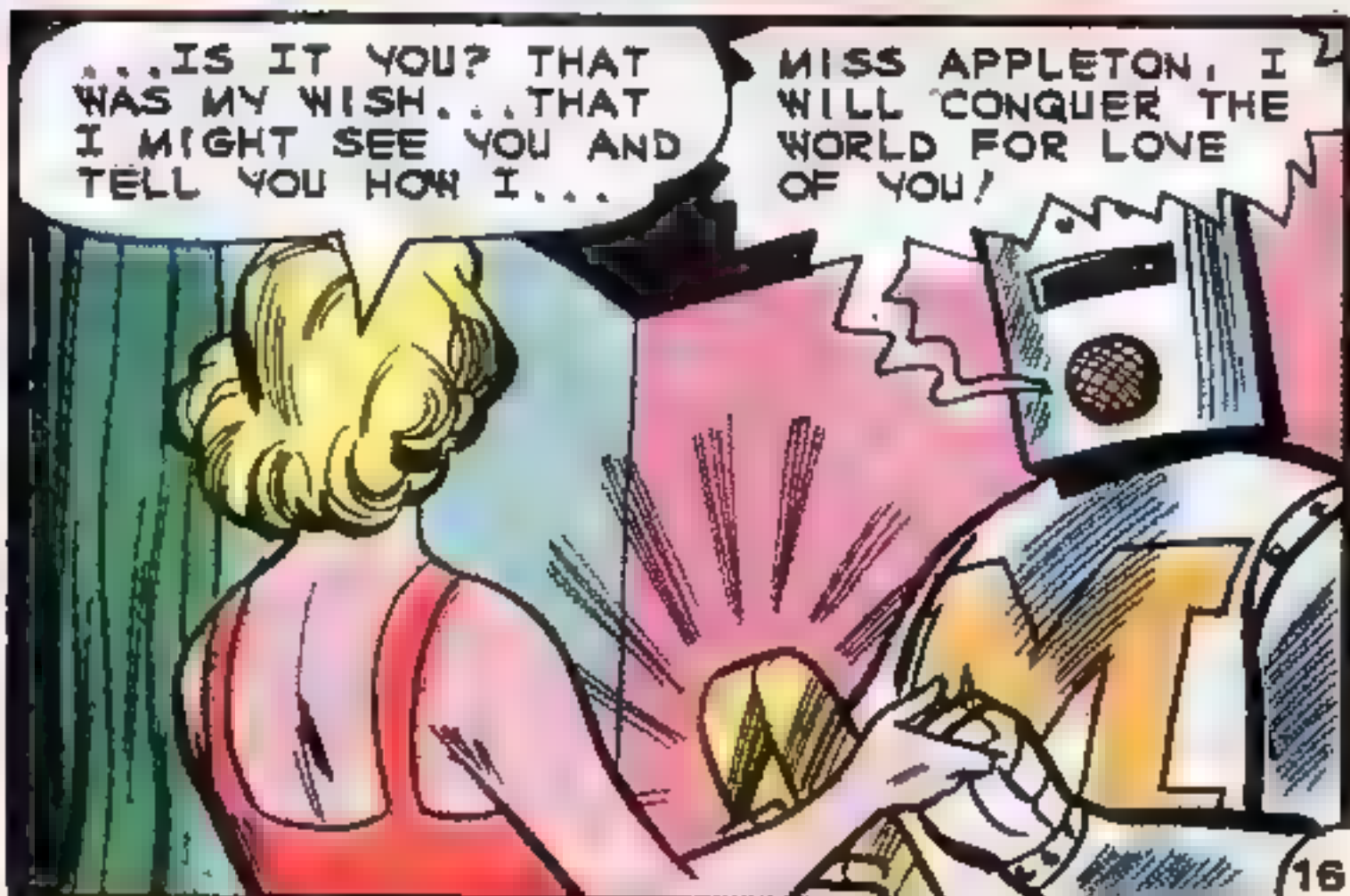
IT... IT'S JEREMIAH'S
ROBOT! OH YOU SILLY
MACHINE... I THOUGHT
YOU WERE A SHOOTING
STAR AND I MADE A
WISH!

WHAT WAS YOUR WISH
MISS APPLETON? I
HAVE GREAT POWERS
... PERHAPS I CAN
MAKE YOUR WISH
COME TRUE!



... IS IT YOU? THAT
WAS MY WISH... THAT
I MIGHT SEE YOU AND
TELL YOU HOW I...

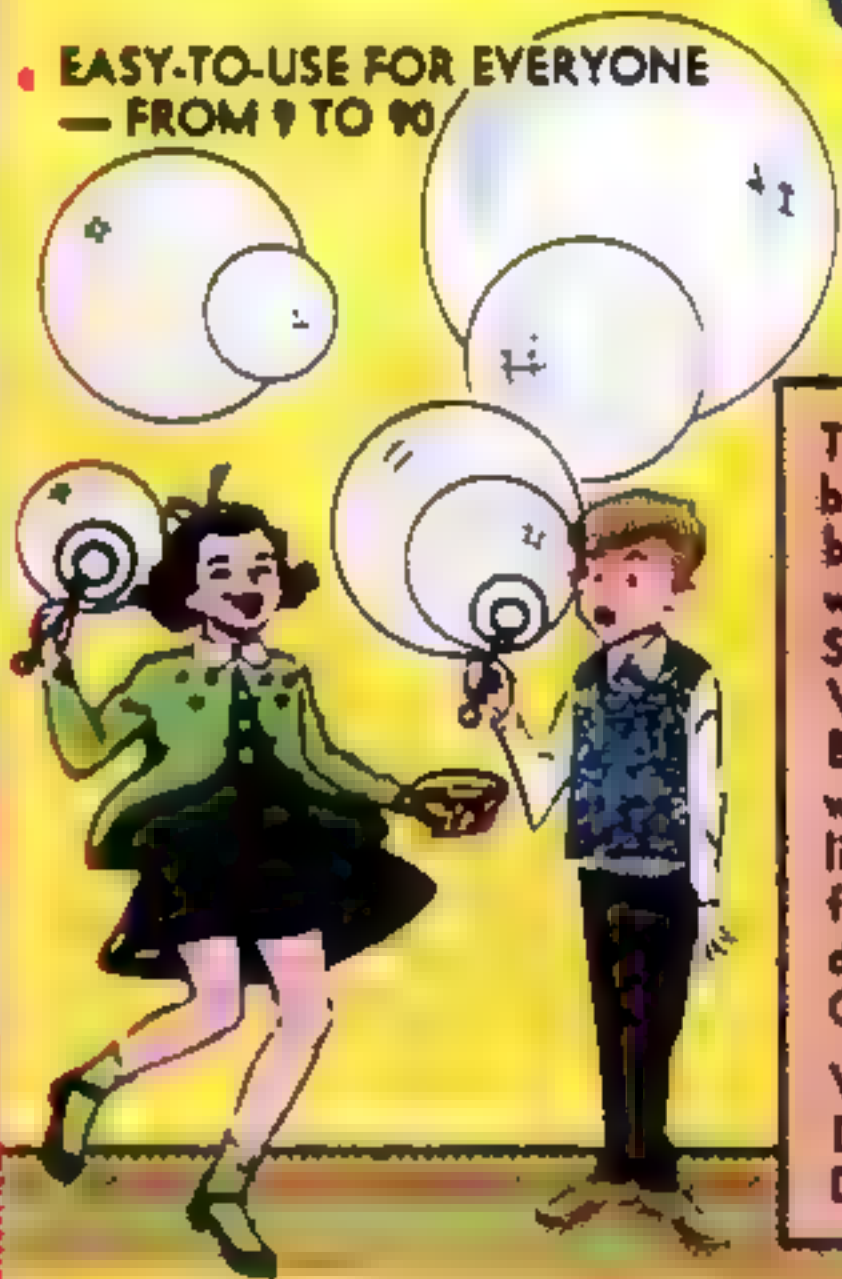
MISS APPLETON, I
WILL CONQUER THE
WORLD FOR LOVE
OF YOU!



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Enclosed is \$2.98. Kindly rush The **CHET ATKINS GUITAR COURSE** to me. If not completely satisfied, I may return the course to you for a full refund.

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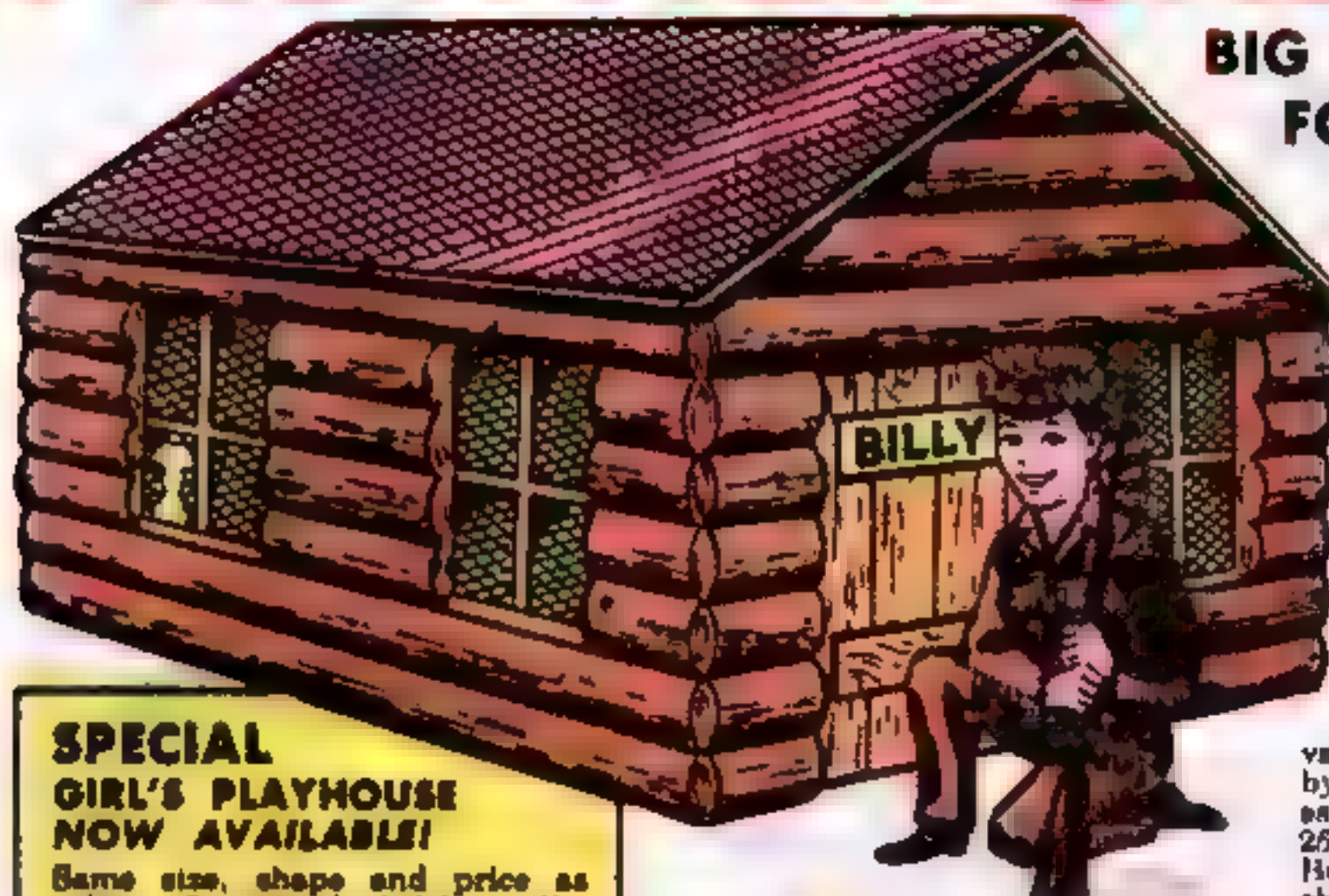
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FOR 2-3
KIDS!**

**\$1.00
5 for
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SPECIAL GIRL'S PLAYHOUSE NOW AVAILABLE!

Same size, shape and price as cabin. Imprinted brick walls, French windows, folded wood-slat shutters, flowers, shrubs, sloping roof, large door, etc.

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TALL
IN AUTHENTIC COLOR
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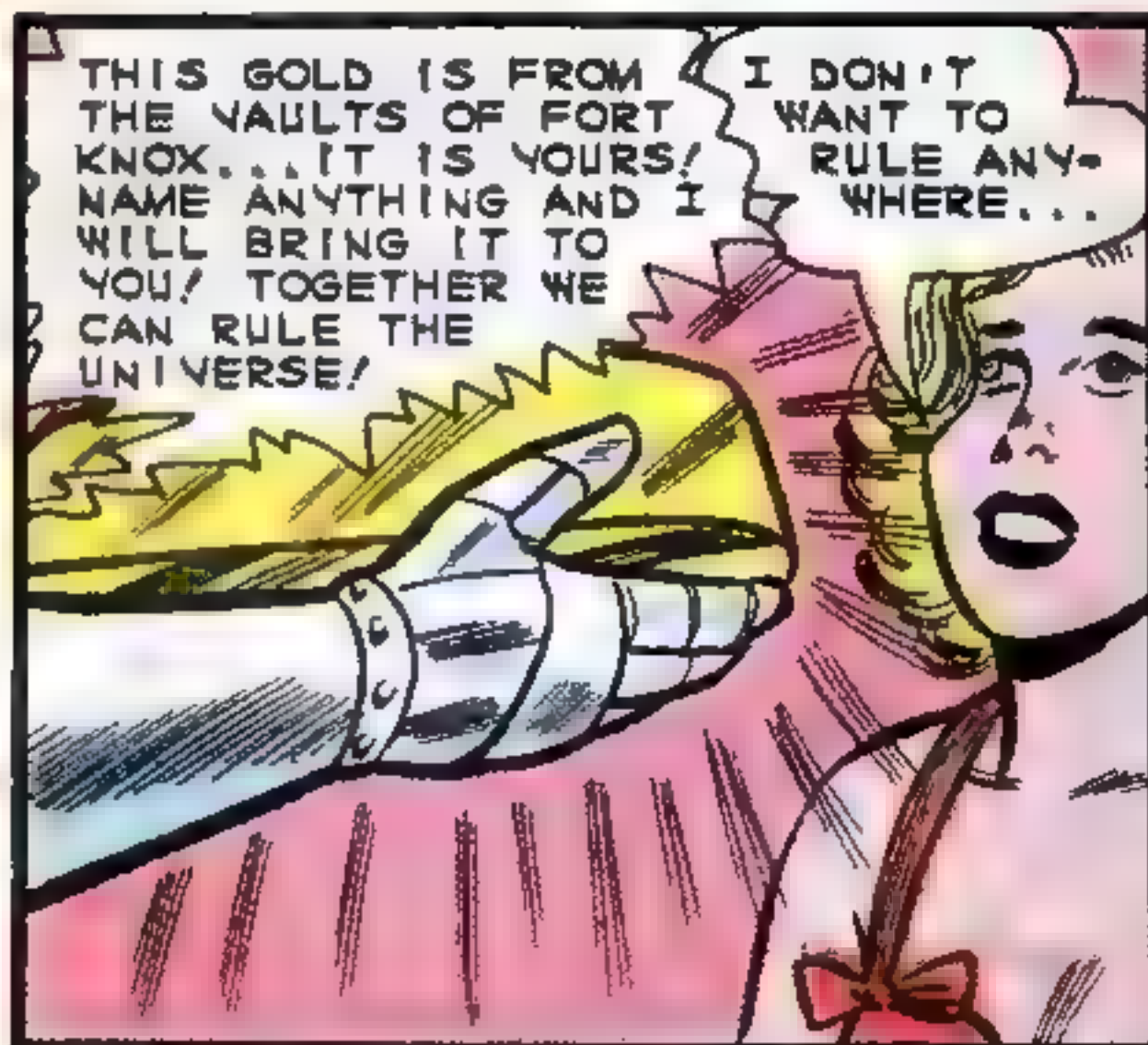
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I enclose \$1 plus 25c for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

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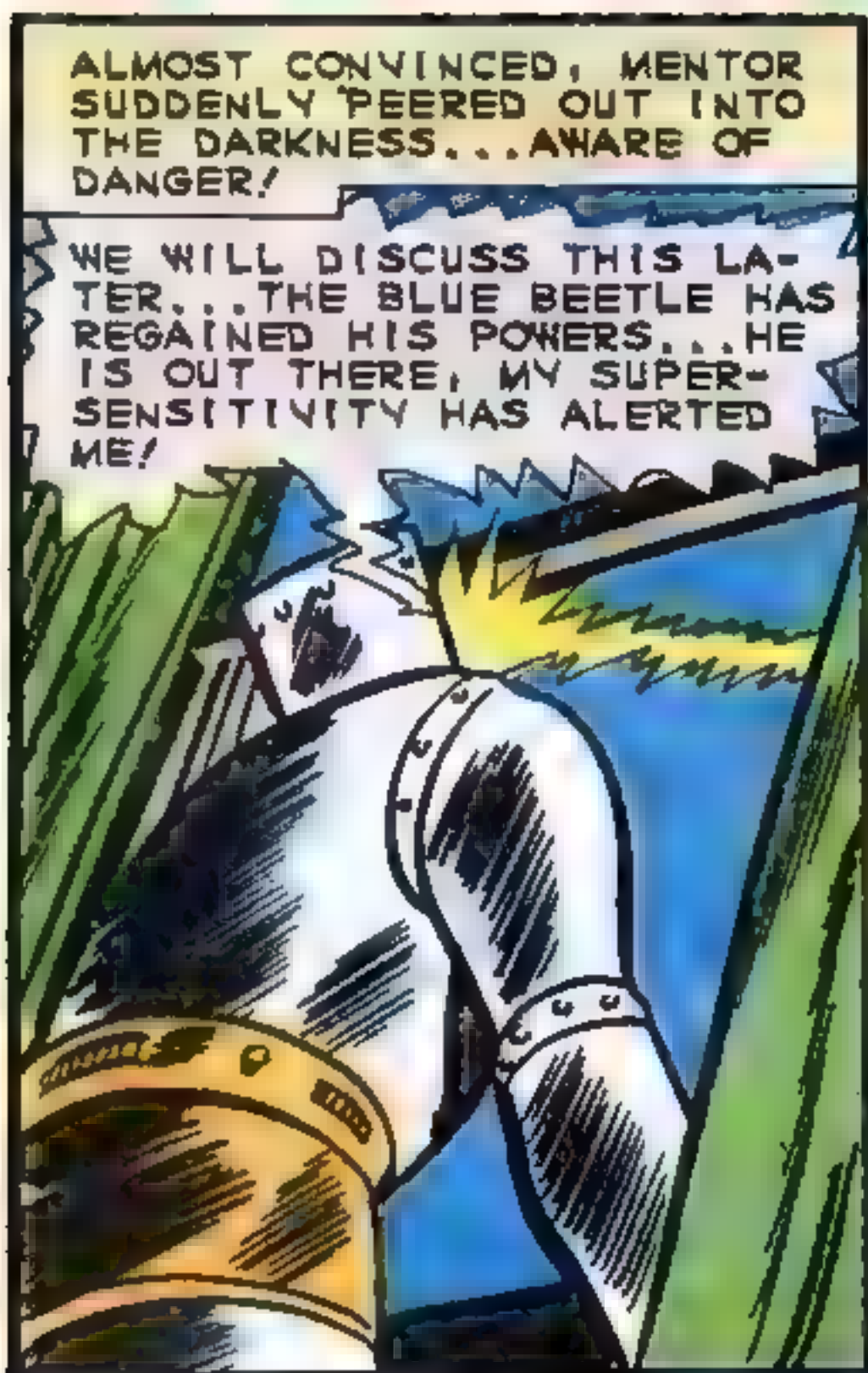


THIS GOLD IS FROM THE VAULTS OF FORT KNOX...IT IS YOURS! NAME ANYTHING AND I WILL BRING IT TO YOU! TOGETHER WE CAN RULE THE UNIVERSE!

I DON'T WANT TO RULE ANYWHERE...

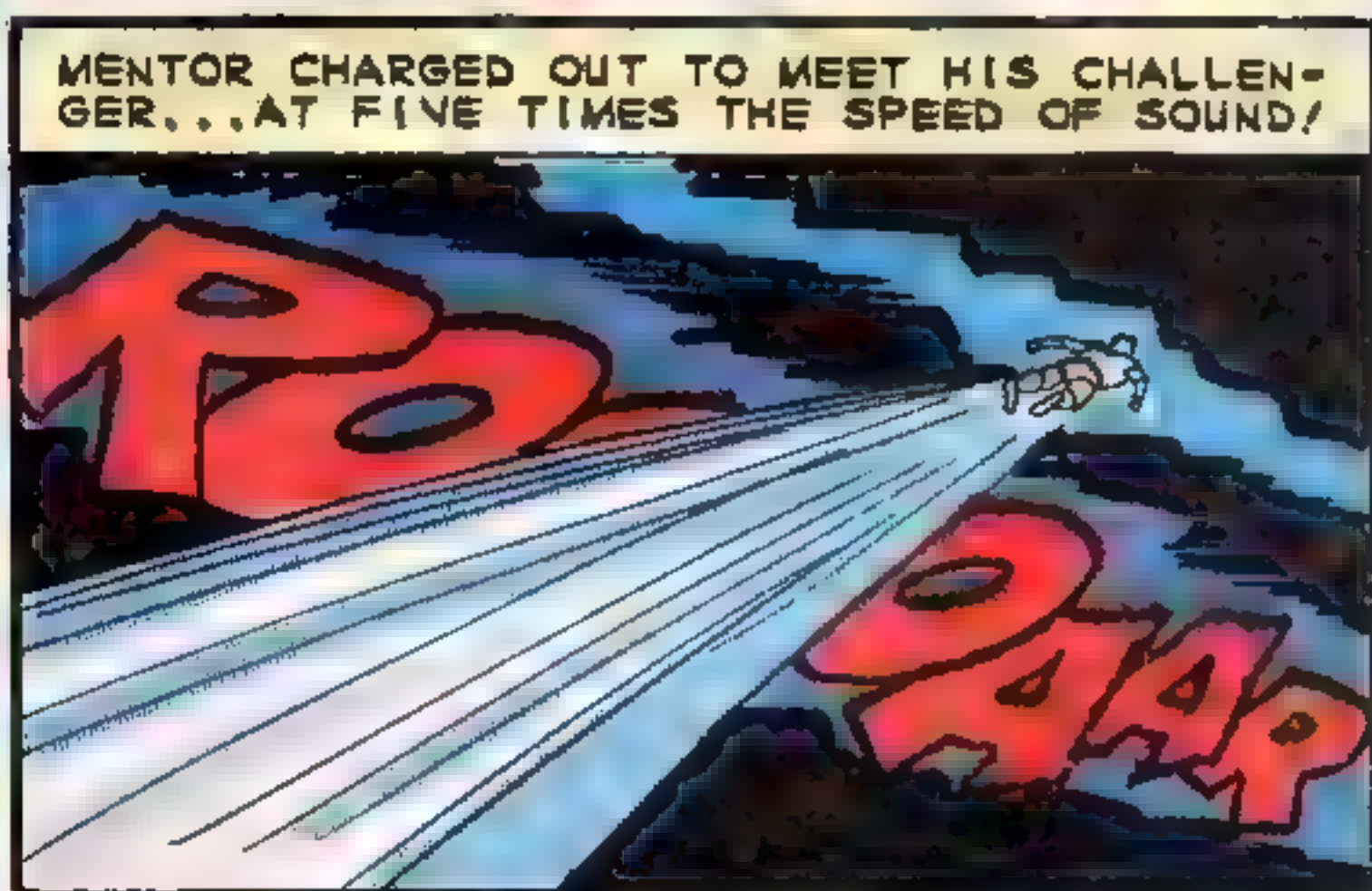


...EXCEPT IN YOUR HEART, PROFESSOR JEREMIAH CLUGG! RESUME YOUR OTHER DEAR FORM...FOR ME?

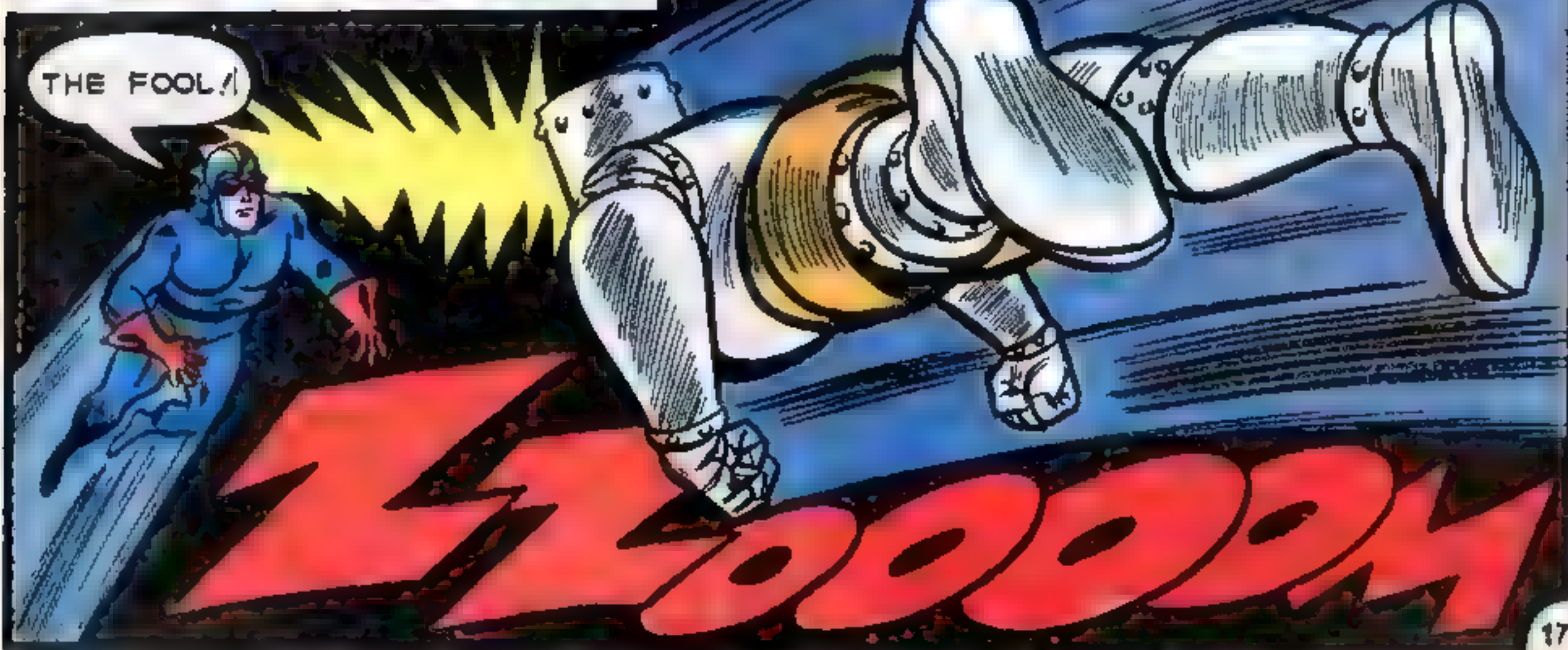


ALMOST CONVINCED, MENTOR SUDDENLY PEERED OUT INTO THE DARKNESS...AWARE OF DANGER!

WE WILL DISCUSS THIS LATER...THE BLUE BEETLE HAS REGAINED HIS POWERS...HE IS OUT THERE, MY SUPER-SENSITIVITY HAS ALERTED ME!



MENTOR CHARGED OUT TO MEET HIS CHALLENGER...AT FIVE TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND!

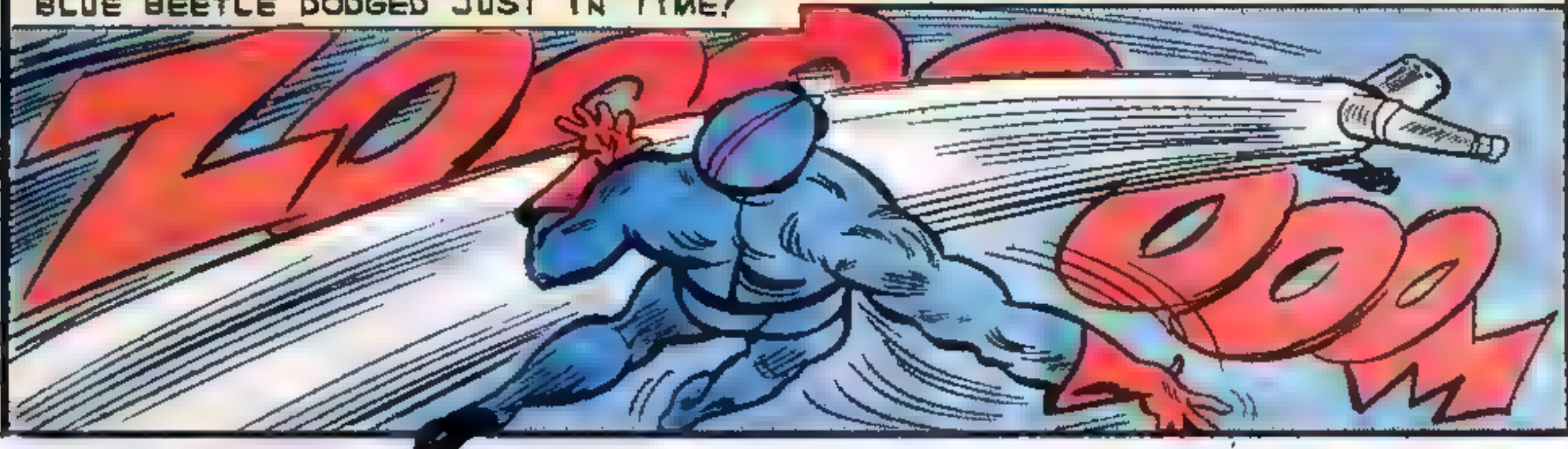


THE FOOL!

HE'S GOT SOME SORT OF HEAT-RAY IN THE EYE-SOCKETS! CLUGG'S ROBOT IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT!



MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT ROARED THROUGH THE SKY AT 5,000 MPH...AND BLUE BEETLE DODGED JUST IN TIME!



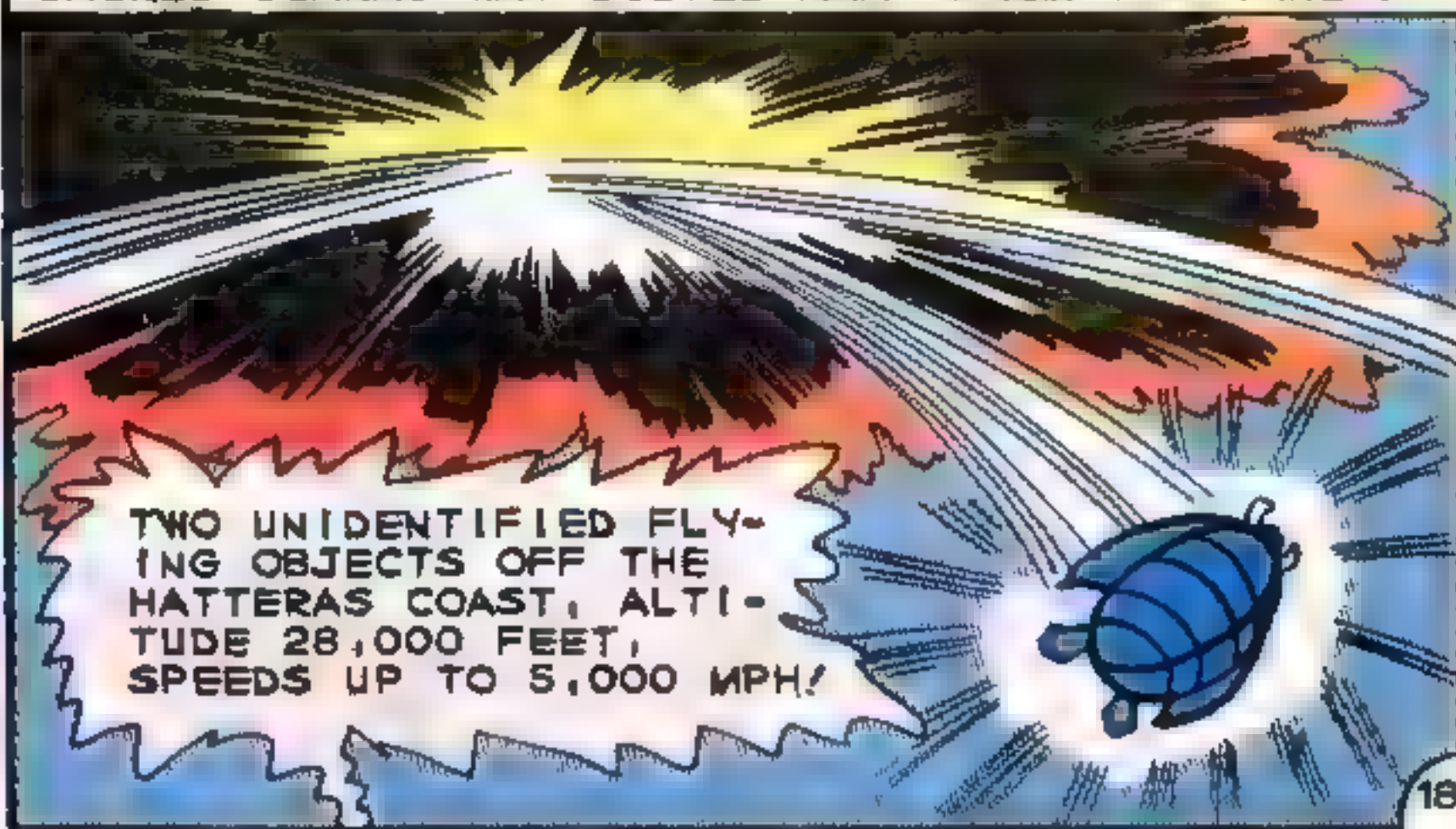
BUT MENTOR TURNED IN A FLASH...FEINTED AN ATTACK, FEINTED AGAIN, AND..



HE'S COMING TOO FAST...I CAN'T DODGE HIM THIS TIME!



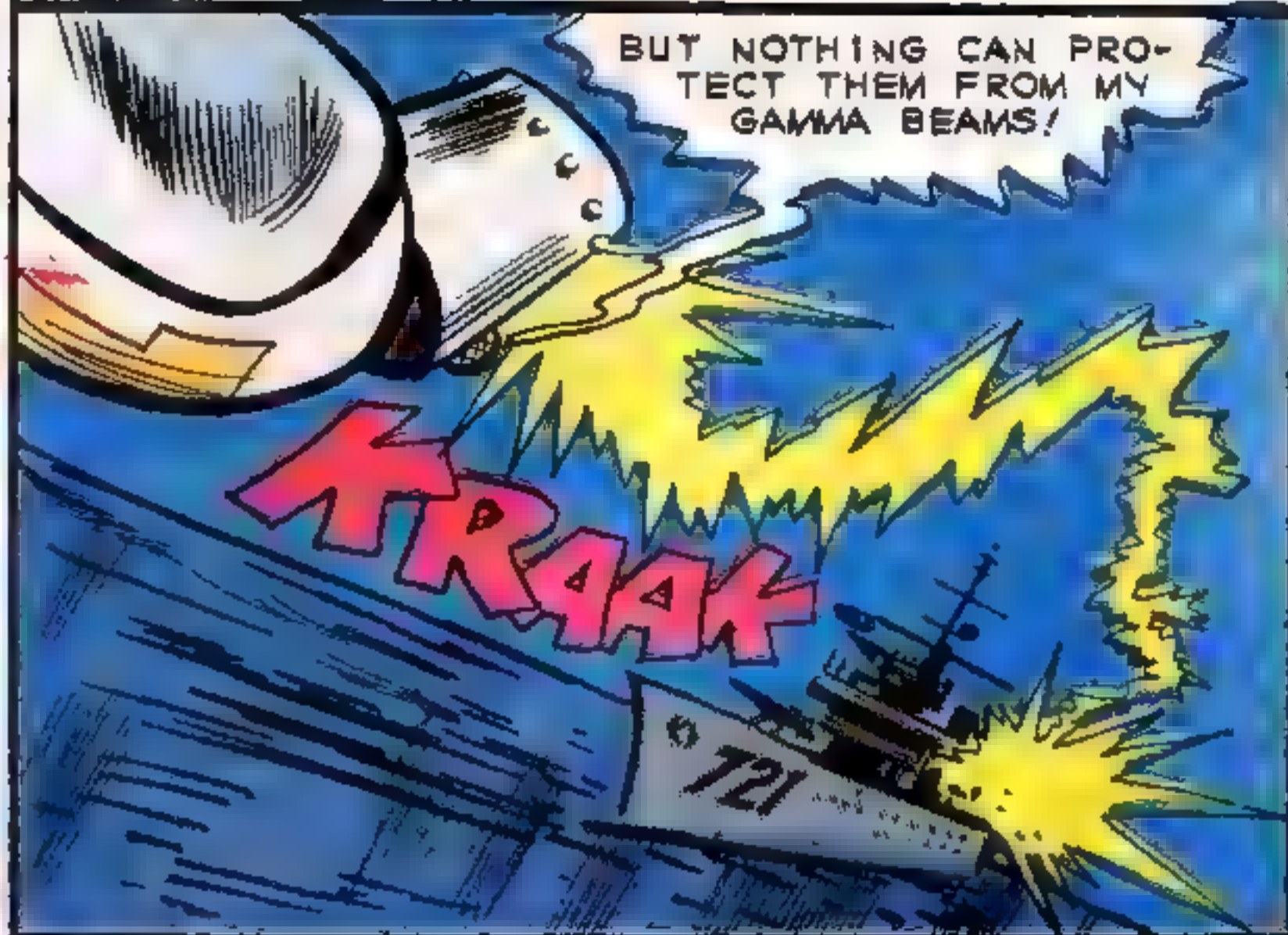
WITH SHATTERING IMPACT, MENTOR SMASHED INTO THE BLUE BEETLE! BOTH OPPONENTS WERE TEMPORARILY STUNNED...AND, WORSE, THE BLUE BEETLE'S SACRED SCARAB WAS JOLTED AWAY FROM ITS OWNER!



TWO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS OFF THE HATTERAS COAST, ALTITUDE 28,000 FEET, SPEEDS UP TO 5,000 MPH!

THE BLUE BEETLE, STUNNED AND POWERLESS WITHOUT THE SACRED SCARAB, PLUMMETED EARTHWARD! AND, MEANWHILE, MENTOR WAS UNDER ATTACK BY U.S. NAVY SHIPS BELOW!

THE INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD PROTECTS ME FROM THEIR WEAPONS!



BUT NOTHING CAN PROTECT THEM FROM MY GAMMA BEAMS!

UNAWARE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED, BLUE BEETLE HURTTLED TOWARD THE SEA BELOW! WAS THIS THE END OF BLUE BEETLE? WOULD THE SACRED SCARAB PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS AND NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN?

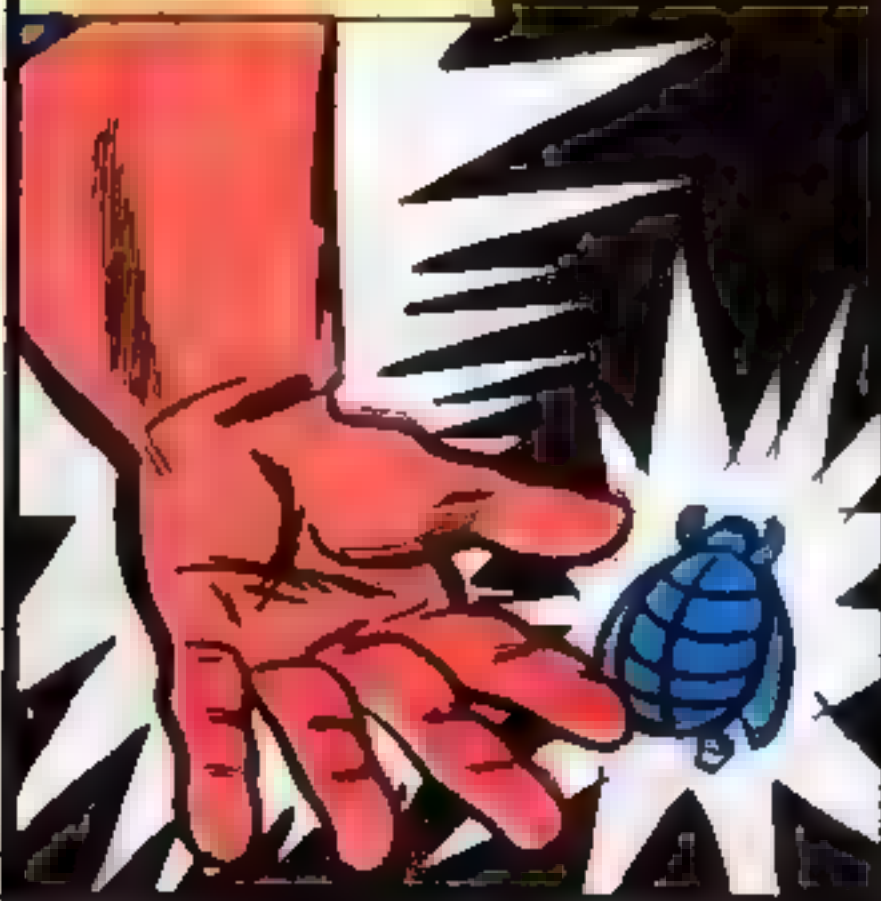


PERHAPS IT WOULD END THAT WAY...IF THIS, THE SPIRIT OF THE GREAT PHARAOH, HAD NOT BEEN WATCHING THE BLUE BEETLE'S BATTLE AGAINST EVIL!

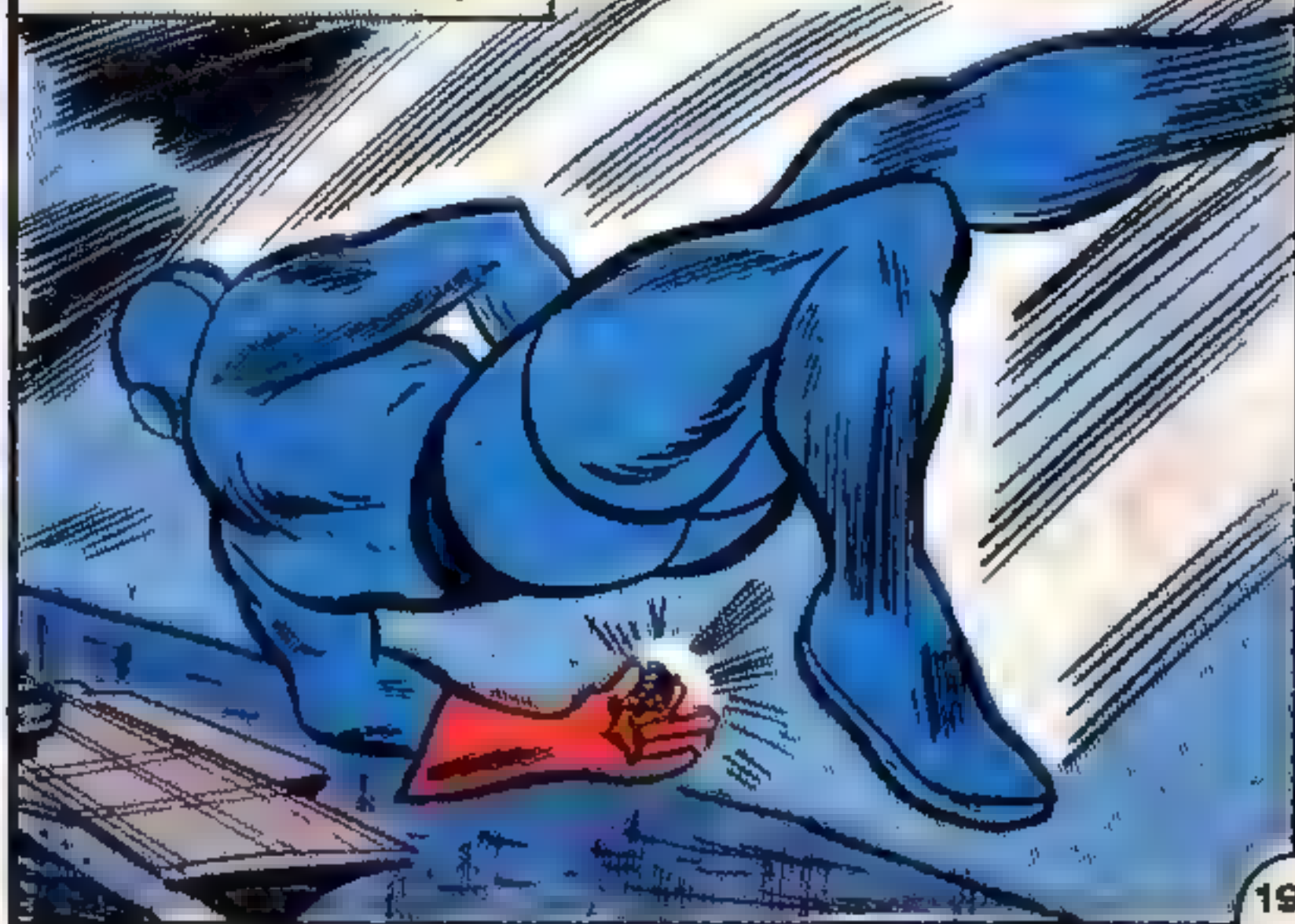
THE BLUE BEETLE NEEDS MY HELP! IF HIS HAND JUST TOUCHES THE FALLING SCARAB...BUT IF IT DOES NOT...EVEN I CANNOT HELP HIM!



THE TWO FALLING BODIES...THE SACRED SCARAB AND THE BLUE BEETLE...SUDDENLY VEERED...AND TOUCHED! INSTANTLY, THE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE SURGED THROUGH HIS BODY AND BLUE BEETLE...

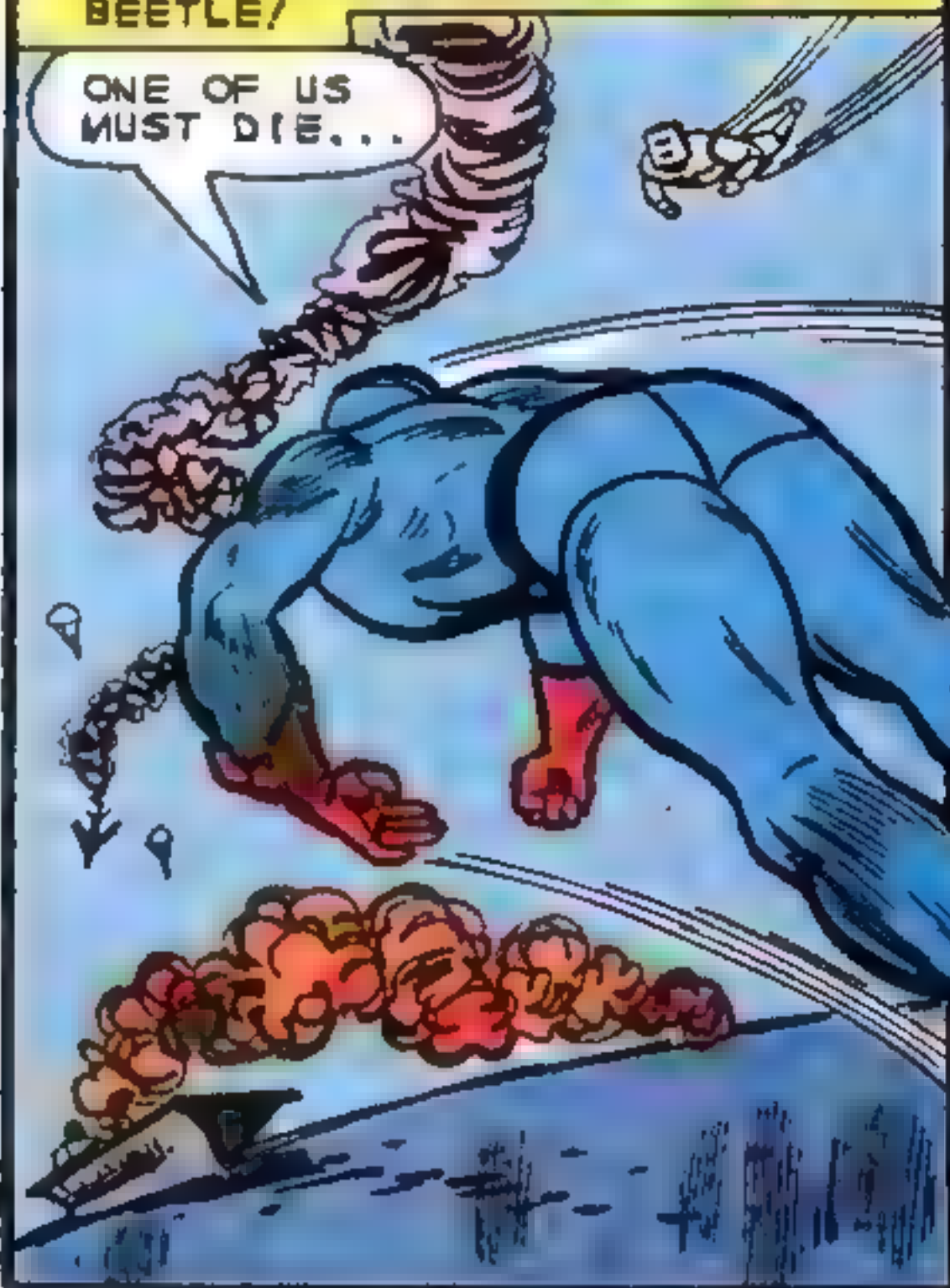


...SPED TO INTERCEPT MENTOR, WHO WAS THEN ATTACKING ONE OF THE NAVY'S NUCLEAR AIR-CRAFT CARRIERS!

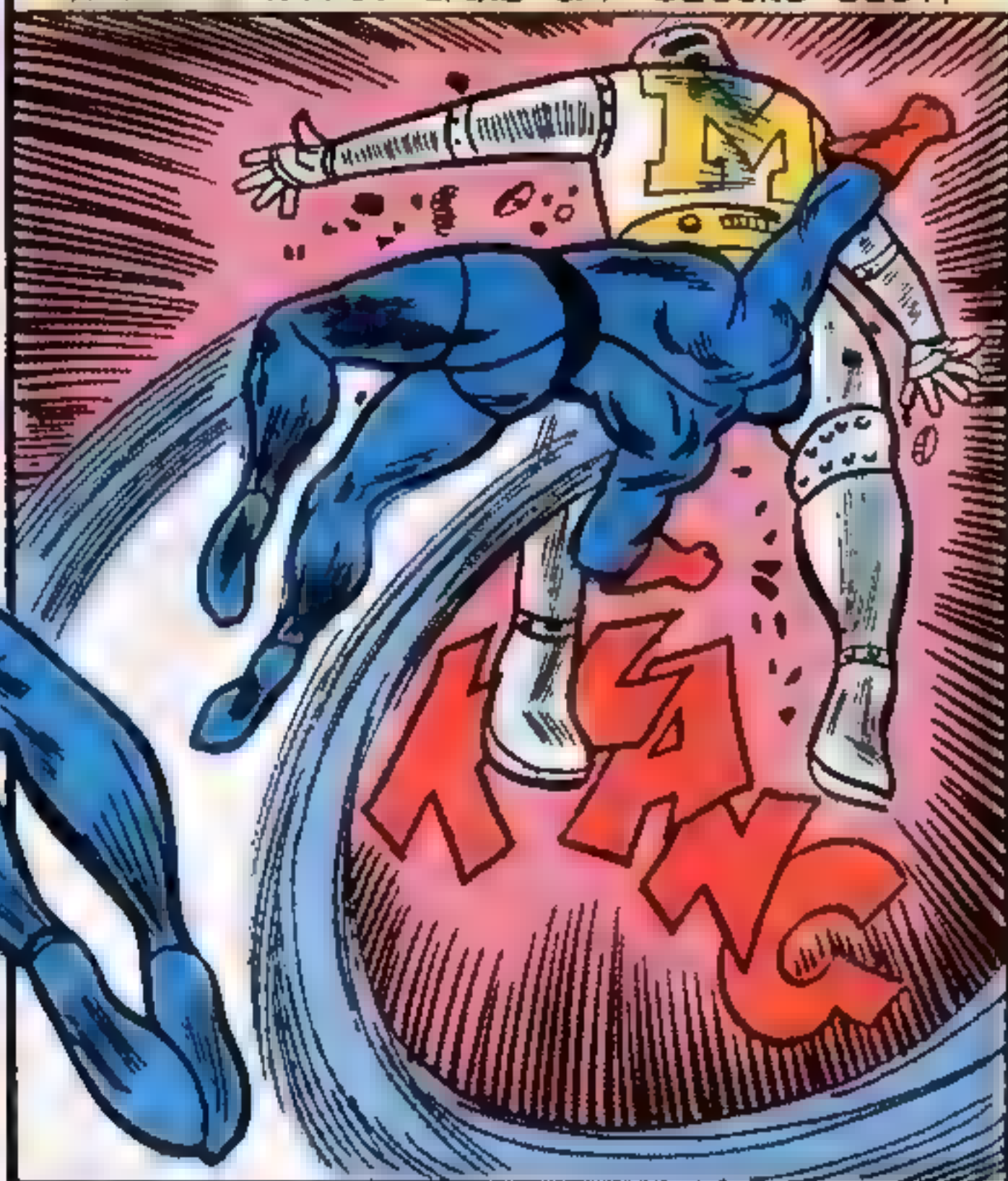


MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT'S SEARING RAYS HAD SET THE CARRIER AFIRE, DESTROYED A JET BOMBER...AND NOW THREATENED TO INCINERATE THE BLUE BEETLE!

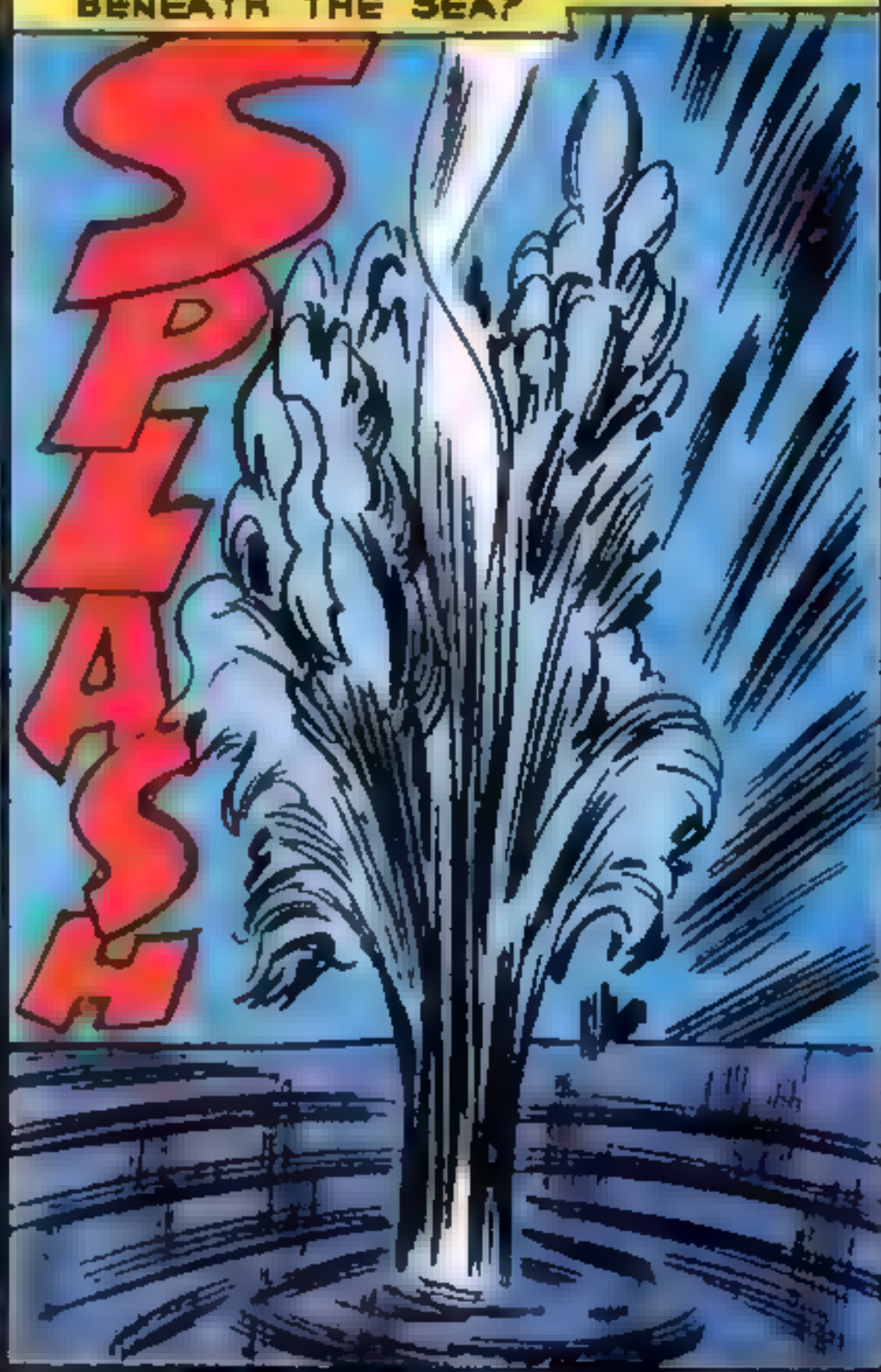
ONE OF US MUST DIE...



WITH A SHATTERING CRASH, BLUE BEETLE RAMMED MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT! AND CLUGG'S ROBOT CAME OFF SECOND BEST!



WAS THIS THE END OF JEREMIAH CLUGG'S DREAMS OF GLORY? WILL MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT RUST IN OBLIVION BENEATH THE SEA?



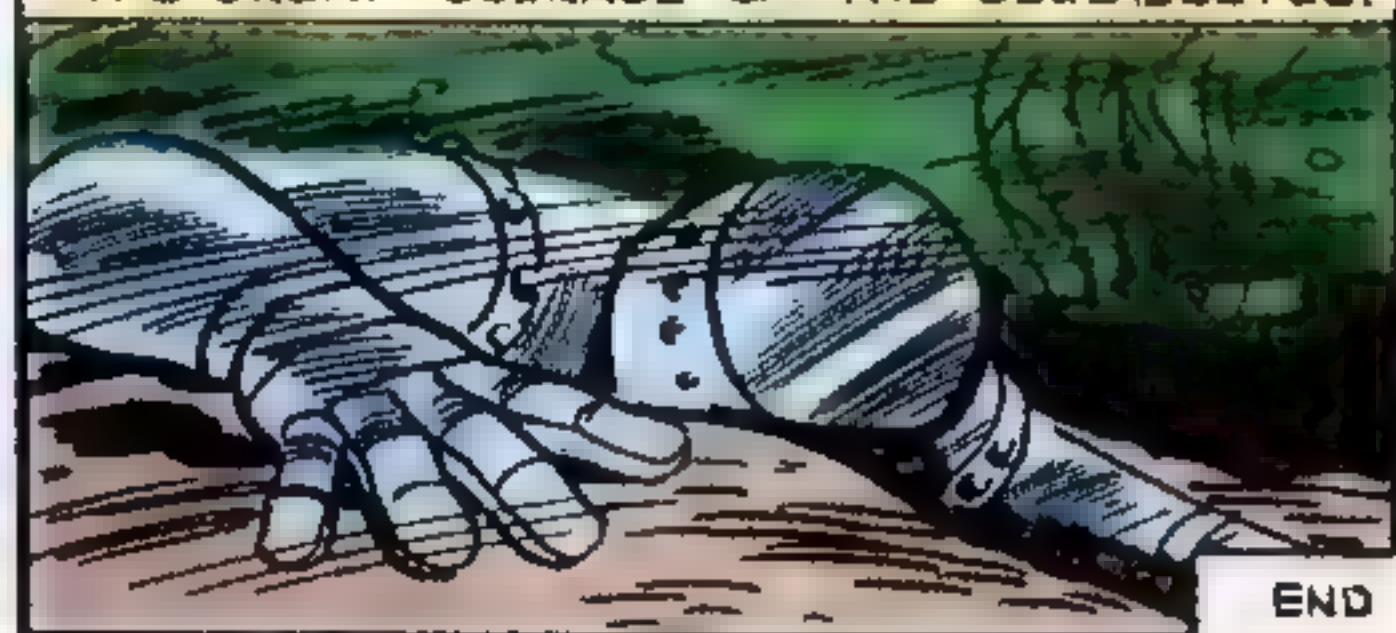
AT THE UNIVERSITY, DR. DAN GARRETT INFORMED A HEARTBROKEN MISS APPLETON OF THE PROBABLE DEMISE OF MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT...AND SHE WEPT! IN FACT, SHE DID NOT GRIEVE ALONE!

POOR JEREMIAH! NO ONE REALLY KNEW HIM EXCEPT ME! HE THOUGHT NO ONE LIKED HIM...BUT I LOVED HIM!

IT'S OUR FAULT FOR RIDICULING HIM! IF WE'D BEEN MORE SYMPATHETIC...



HAD JEREMIAH CLUGG DIED WITH MENTOR THE MAGNIFICENT? WAS THIS THE END FOR THIS PATHETIC LITTLE GENIUS WHO HAD DREAMED OF CONQUERING THE WORLD? OR WOULD HE RETURN SOME DAY TO ENDANGER MANKIND...AND TEST ONCE MORE THE GREAT COURAGE OF THE BLUE BEETLE?



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| 4. The Door Is Still Open To My Heart | 22. Tell Her No | 42. Come See About Me |
| 5. You Really Got Me | 23. All Day And All of The Night | 43. Dear Heart |
| 6. I Don't Want To See You Aggoin | 24. This Diamond Ring | 44. The Wedding |
| 7. She Loves You | 25. My Girl | 45. Sha La La |
| 8. Stay | 26. The Jolly Green Giant | 46. Amen |
| 9. We Love You Beatles | 27. Blue Velvet | 47. Dang Me |
| 10. Please Please Me | 28. Busted | 48. The Little Old Lady from Pasadena |
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| 12. The Shoop Shoop Song | 30. Be My Baby | 50. Rag Doll |
| 13. I Want To Hold Your Hand | 31. Then He Kissed Me | 51. Wishin' And Hopin' |
| 14. As Usual | 32. A Walkin' Miracle | 52. Nobody I Know |
| 15. Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, Um | 33. Do You Love Me | 53. Judy's Turn To Cry |
| 16. Surfin' Bird | 34. Once Upon A Time | 54. More |
| 17. Anyone Who Had A Heart | 35. Three Window Coupe | 55. Green Green |
| 18. Somewhere | 36. Chapel Of Love | 56. If I Had A Hammer |
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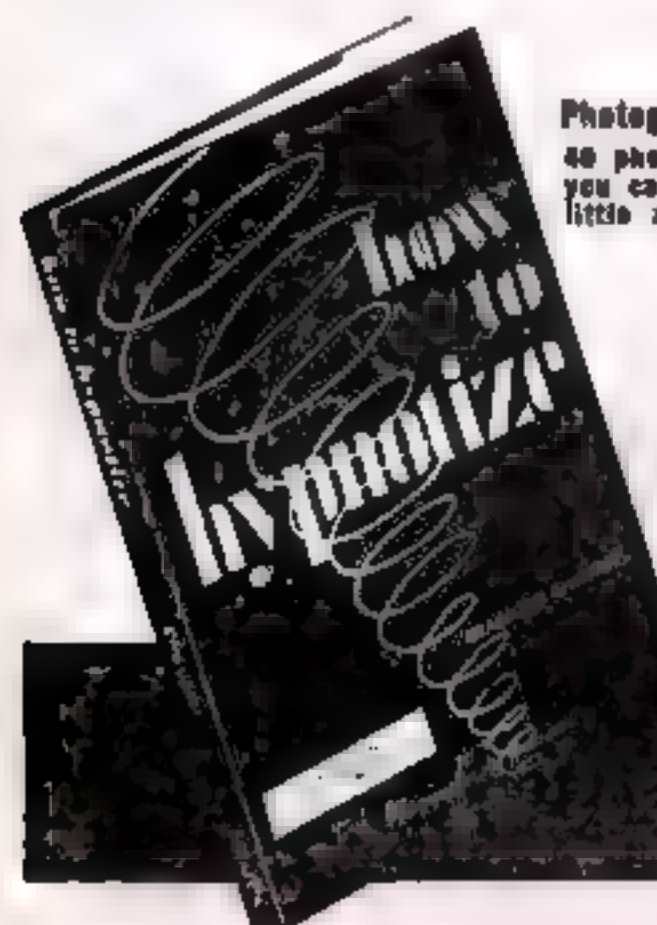
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SLIGHT ERROR

THIS WAS THE THIRD GEMINI TEAM BLASTED OUTWARD INTO SPACE/ NOW...THEY HAD A MORE SOPHISTICATED RETRO-ROCKET SYSTEM ...AND THEY HAD RESERVE POWER FOR THE RETURN TRIP TO EARTH/ THIS TIME... THEY'D MAKE AN EXPLORATORY LANDING ON VENUS...

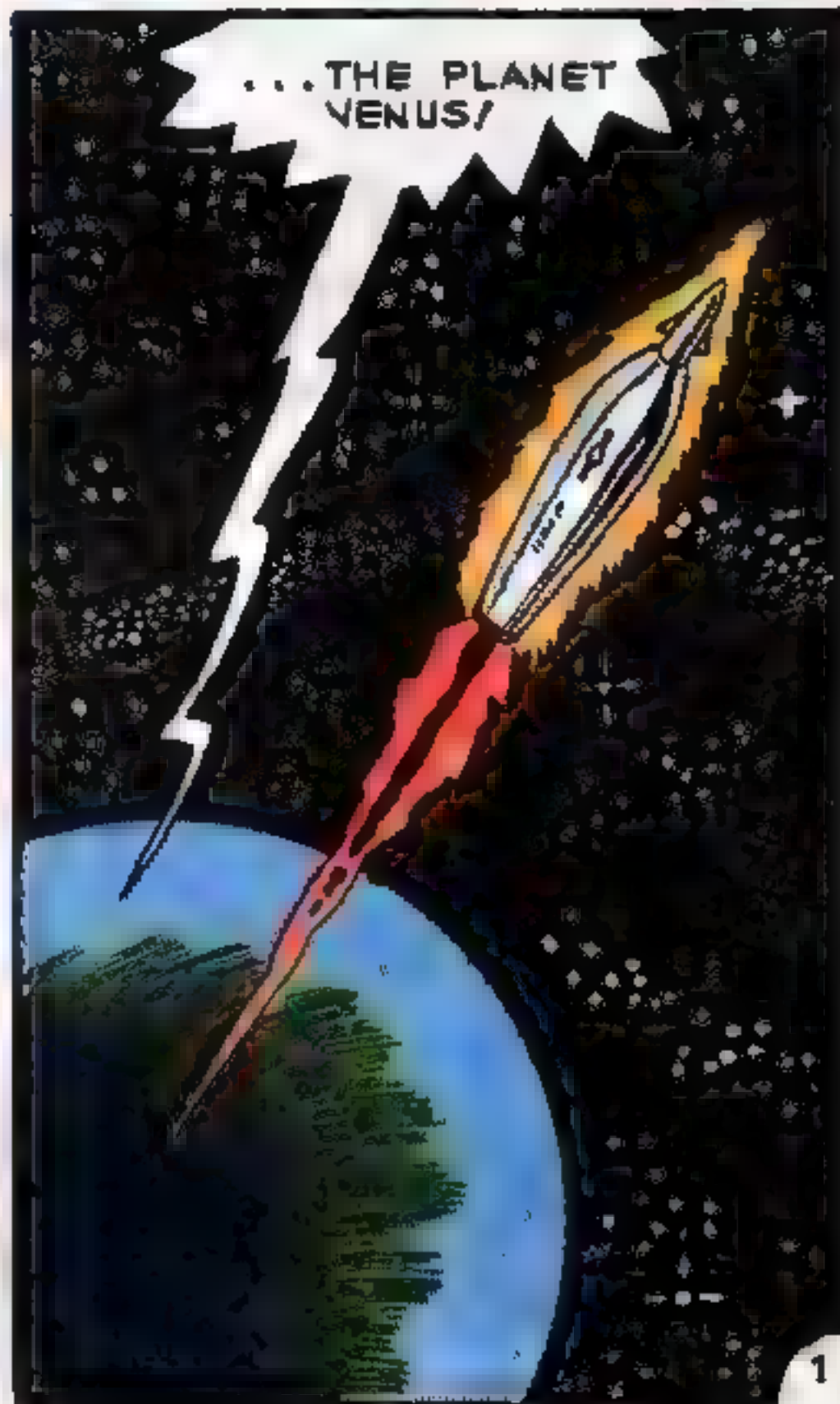
SUBJECTED TO A STRESS OF 11 G'S (ELEVEN TIMES THE NORMAL GRAVITATIONAL PULL) LT. COL. JAMES LOWMDES, U.S.N., COULD NOT MOVE, BUT THEIR EYES DIDN'T MISS ANY ONE GAUGE THAT TOLD THEM HOW WELL THEIR LAUNCH WAS GOING...

ALL SYSTEMS A-OKAY/ NEXT STOP...



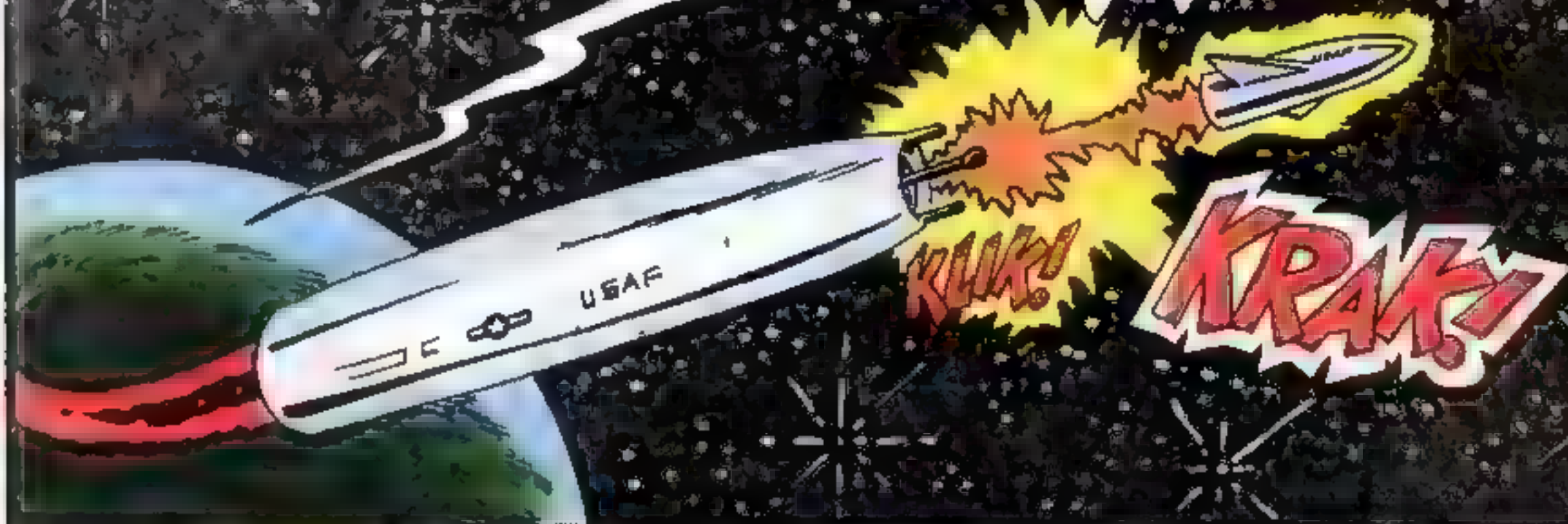
A-5007

MASTROSERIO



SPEED 27,000 MPH ON
COURSE FOR VENUS...

COLONEL LOWNDES, YOUR HEART,
PULSE, AND RESPIRATION READ-
INGS HERE INDICATE THAT YOU
AND COMMANDER TUPPER ARE
REACTING FAVORABLY! HOW DO
YOU TWO FEEL?

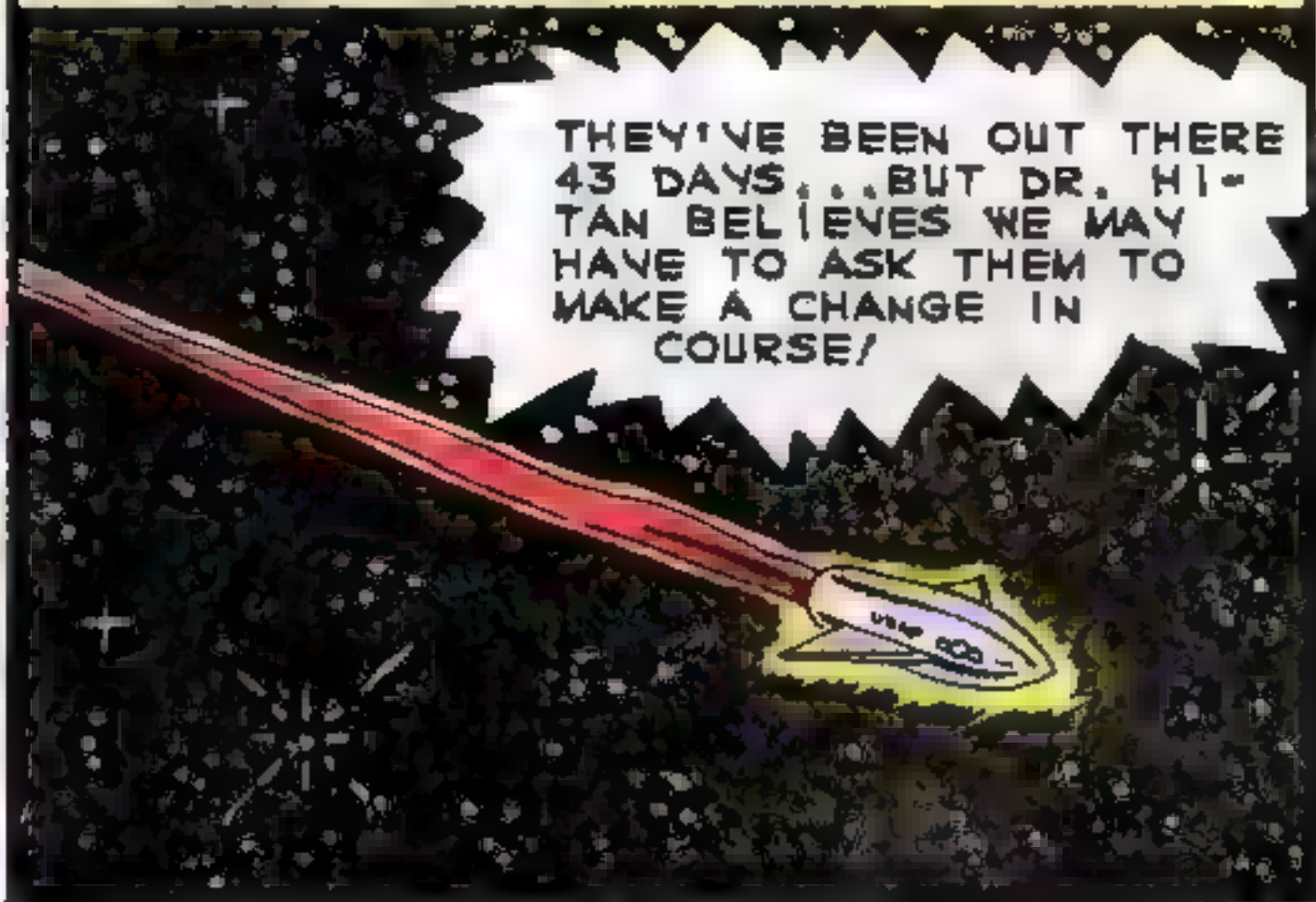


WE'RE FINE,
GROUND CON-
TROL! WE'LL
BEGIN AN IN-
STRUMENT
CHECK NOW!



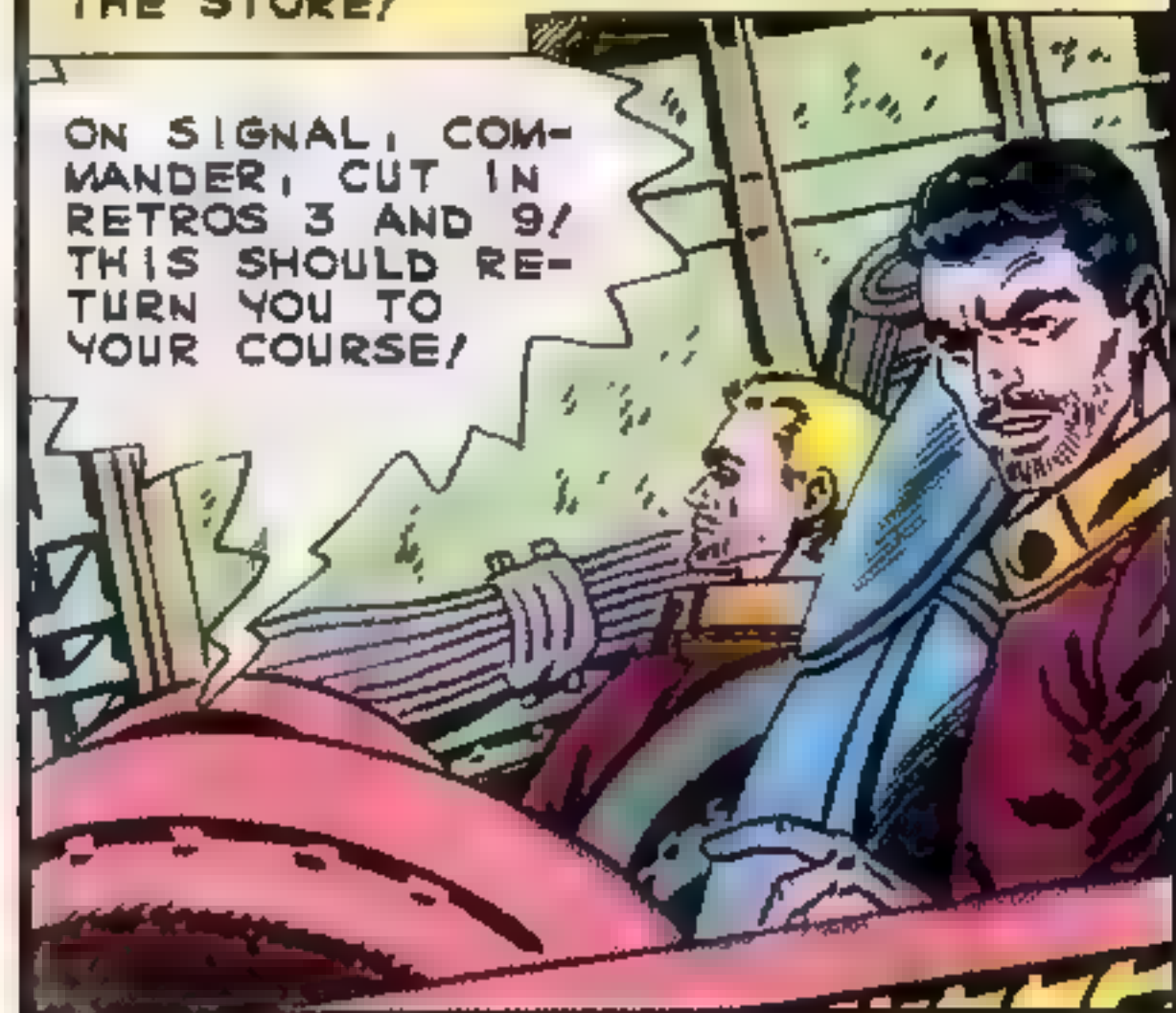
RADAR TRACKING GEAR ON EARTH FED THE
DATA INTO GIANT COMPUTERS! AT FIRST,
REPORTS INDICATED THIS GEMINI CAP-
SULE WAS RIGHT ON COURSE...

THEY'VE BEEN OUT THERE
43 DAYS... BUT DR. HI-
TAN BELIEVES WE MAY
HAVE TO ASK THEM TO
MAKE A CHANGE IN
COURSE!

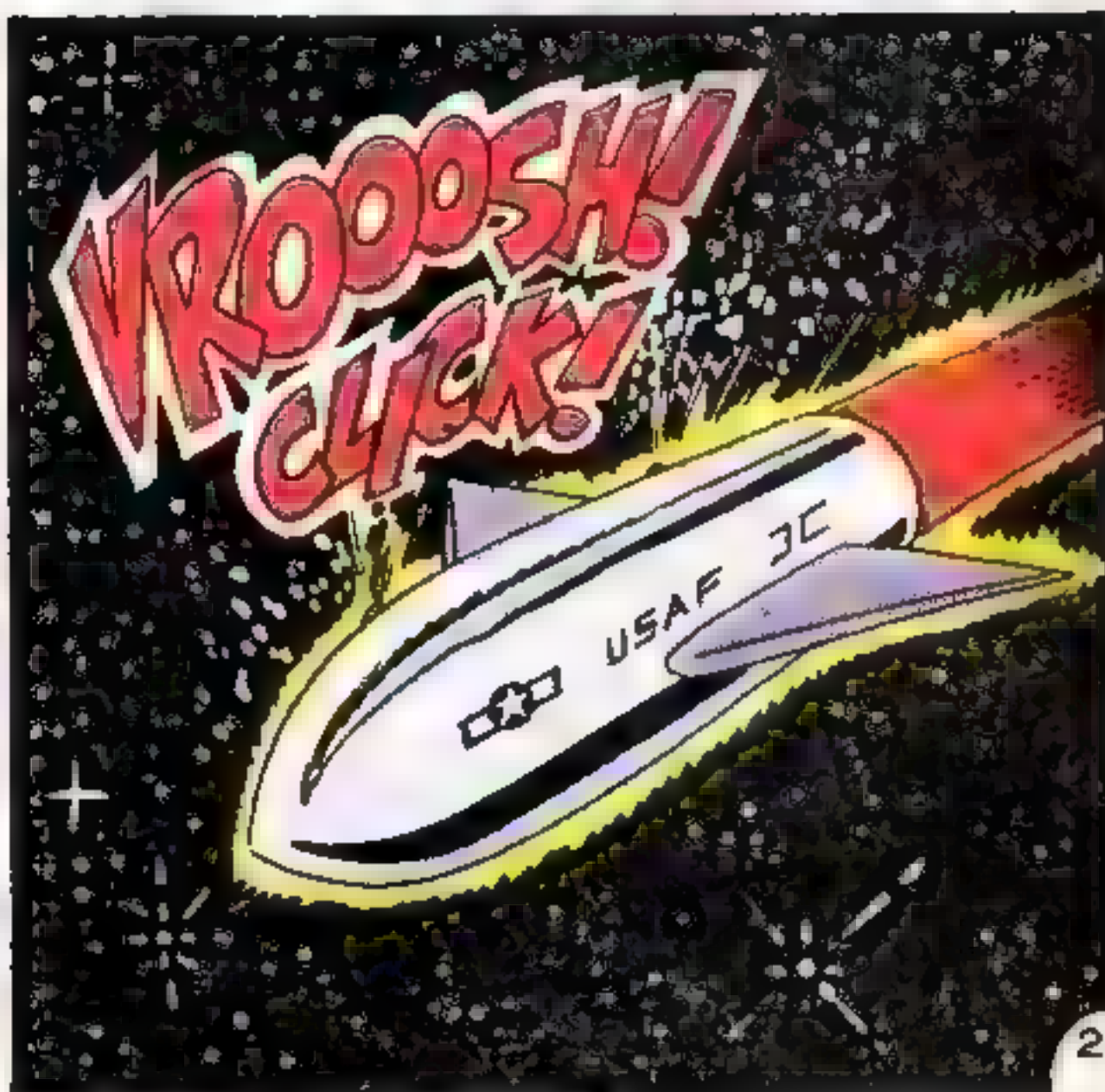


LT. COL. LOWNDES WAS ASLEEP...
HAD BEEN SLEEPING FOR SIX DAYS
...WHILE COMDR. TUPPER MINDED
THE STORE!

ON SIGNAL, COM-
MANDER, CUT IN
RETROS 3 AND 9!
THIS SHOULD RE-
TURN YOU TO
YOUR COURSE!

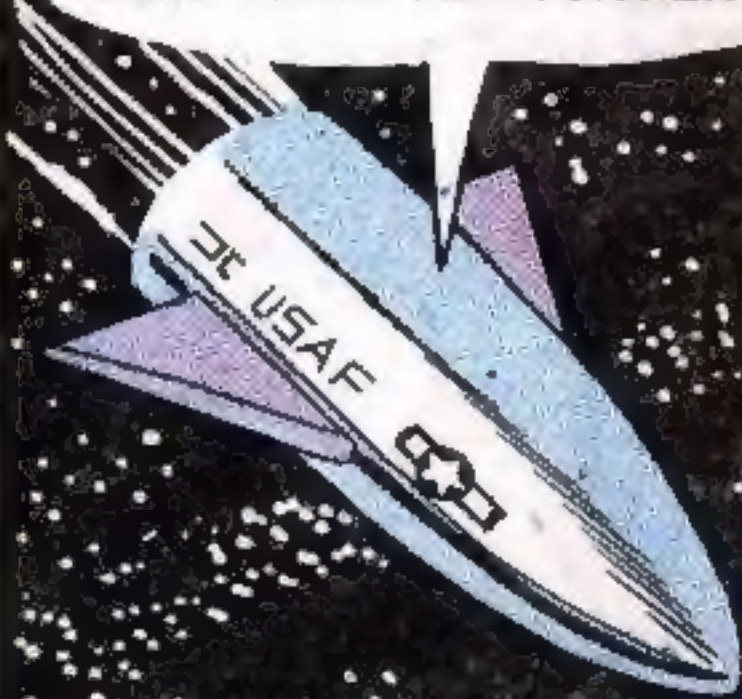


VROOOOSH!
CLICK!



BUT THE RETRO-ROCKETS FAILED... AND ACCELERATING CONSTANTLY THE GEMINI SPED AT 500,000 MPH RIGHT OUT OF EARTH'S RADAR RANGE! RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST...AND WEEKS DRIFTED INTO MONTHS!

WE'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS OFF AND ON FOR MONTHS! WE'RE DEAD MEN, AMOS... BUT WE KNEW THE RISKS WHEN WE VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT!



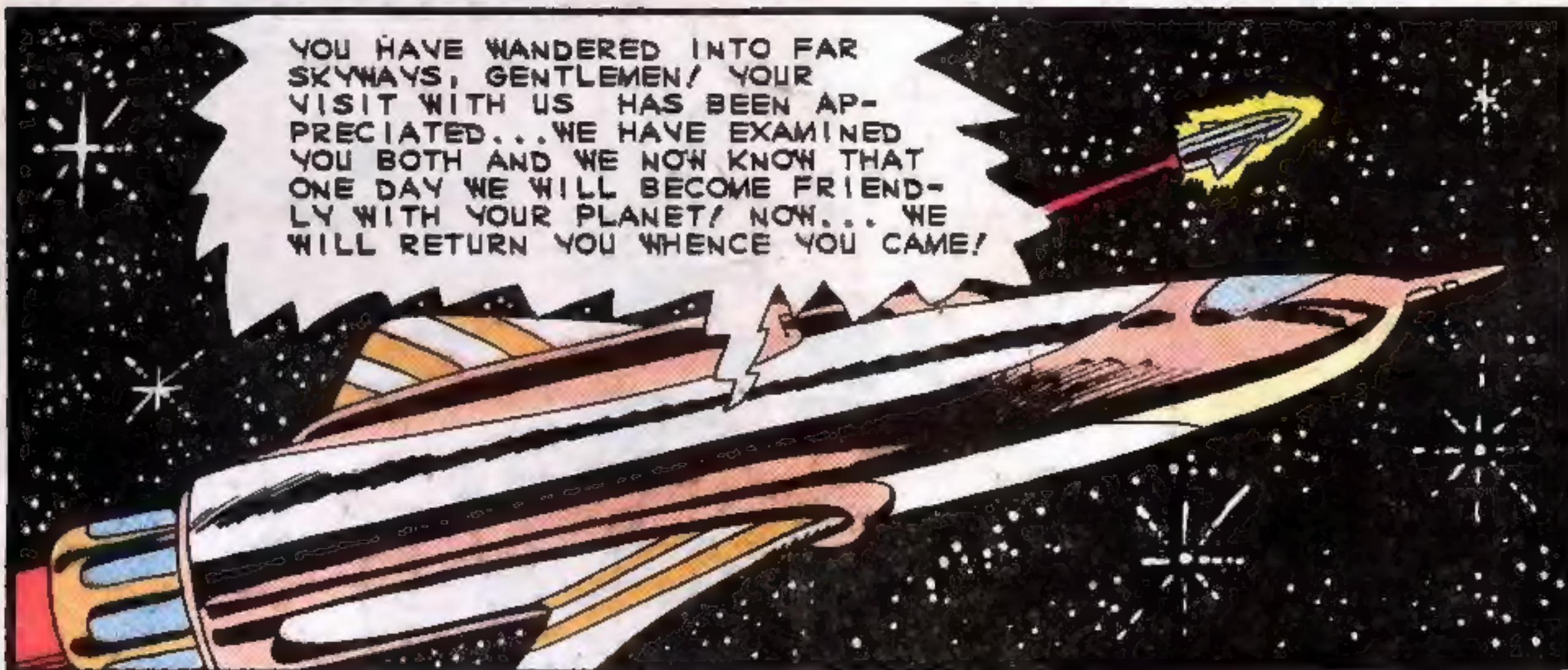
NEARLY A YEAR PASSED! THE SPECIAL DRUGS, CONDENSED FOODS AND LONG, TRANCE-LIKE SLEEPS, PRESERVED THEIR LIVES...

YOU TWO MEN ARE OF EARTH?

THAT VOICE AGAIN...I HEAR IT WITH MY BRAIN...NOT IN MY EARS!



YOU HAVE WANDERED INTO FAR SKYWAYS, GENTLEMEN! YOUR VISIT WITH US HAS BEEN APPRECIATED...WE HAVE EXAMINED YOU BOTH AND WE NOW KNOW THAT ONE DAY WE WILL BECOME FRIENDLY WITH YOUR PLANET! NOW... WE WILL RETURN YOU WHENCE YOU CAME!



MONTHS LATER!

HELLO, COLONEL LOWNDES, WE HAVE YOU ON RADAR! ARE YOU ALIVE?

THIS IS LOWNDES AND I'M SPEAKING FOR COMMANDER TUPPER TOO! WE'RE BOTH VERY MUCH ALIVE, THANK YOU!



BOTH MEN FELT A LITTLE LIKE RIP VAN WINKLE...MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS AFTER BLAST-OFF, THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HOME PLANET...

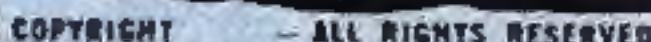
THERE ARE FRIENDLY PEOPLE OUT THERE! THEY SENT US BACK...I HAVE A FEELING THEY'LL BE A BIG HELP TO MAN!



END

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